

Law Enforcement News

Vol. XXIX, No. 597

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

April 15, 2003

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Cause for alarm

Industry & user resistance thwarts solution to false-alarm problem

By Jennifer Nislow

Pierce resistance from the burglar-alarm industry — and often from the minority of community residents who own such systems — is preventing the widespread adoption of a strategy believed to be by far the most effective means of reducing false alarms, law-enforcement experts say.

Called verified response, the strategy works by requiring alarm companies to first confirm something suspicious at an alarm site, such as an open door or window, before a patrol unit is dispatched. It has been used with extraordinary success by police in Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and Eugene, Ore., among a handful of other jurisdictions.

The strategy has been recommended by the U.S. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services office as the best solution for a problem that has bedeviled law enforcement for at least the past 30 years.

According to Rana Sampson, author of an issue of "Problem-Oriented Guides for Police" that addresses false alarms, verified response was developed to counter the "dismal reliability rate" of alarms.

Nationwide, alarms are only 2 percent to 4 percent reliable. However, they can account for up to 20 percent of police calls for service, drawing law en-

forcement from crime locations to become "false alarm managers," she noted.

"In looking at calls for service, it's interesting that even during the crime declines in the U.S. during the 1990s, many cities still experienced increased calls for service for police," Sampson told Law Enforcement News. "The

In 1992, the Las Vegas agency recorded 100,000 dispatches on burglary alarms. Three years ago, that figure had dropped to 10,000 a year — a 90-percent reduction despite a growth in population from 678,000 in 1991 to over 1 million that year.

The police department also said its burglary rates declined by 8 percent for

alarm company, which has to send a private responder, such as a security guard. If there is evidence of a break-in, police respond. In Salt Lake City, the response time after a guard calls for assistance is 6.24 minutes, said Werner.

"Back in 1992, we had lowered our response on alarms because they were 99 percent false," she told LEN. "Considered a priority three, alarm cases were closed in anywhere from 45 minutes to three hours, said Werner. "They were not a high priority."

In 1999, the department had responded to 8,200 false alarms, she said. Last year, it responded to 793. The remainder consisted of robberies, hold-ups and panic buttons, and the agency charges for each of those types of false alarms.

While there are other initiatives that can reduce false alarms, none are as effective as verified response, Werner and Sampson agreed.

Most jurisdictions that want to do something more than just dispatching patrols to each alarm — what Werner refers to the "plain-vanilla" approach — establish a fee for service on all false alarms. While the fee does reimburse the city for the call, it is not clear whether it reduces the number of false alarms, according to the POP guide.

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The unreliability of alarm systems is turning overloaded police forces into "false alarm managers."

management of those calls becomes an important issue for police if they are going to be able to provide quality service. They can't keep getting stretched.

"Overloading the police — which is what false alarms do — takes away from their mission to effectively impact crime and safety problems," said Sampson.

Those places with the highest risk of burglary are households with incomes of \$15,000 or less, said Sampson. False alarms, she noted, keep police from those areas.

Verified response was developed a decade ago by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, according to the POP guide.

the three years following the change in policy.

An ordinance mandating verified response that was passed in 2000 in Salt Lake City has also resulted in a 90-percent reduction in dispatches. The drop occurred virtually overnight, said Shanna Werner, the civilian coordinator of the department's false-alarm unit.

The Salt Lake City department distinguishes between human-activated alarms and ones generated by door contacts, motion sensors, or window contacts, Werner explained. Human-activated alarms are still priority-one calls. But in the case of those activated by technology, the burden is shifted to the

Maine police & sheriffs rip DEA over unannounced drug raids

A dangerous lack of communication and a possible turf battle are thought by some law enforcement executives in Maine to be behind the failure of the Drug Enforcement Administration to inform them on three separate occasions recently that federal agents would be conducting major narcotics raids in their jurisdictions.

Police chiefs and sheriffs remain skeptical of DEA assertions that in each of the incidents, the lack of notification was unintentional.

"There have been three oversights in the same way," Maurice Ouellette, chief deputy sheriff in York County, where the first raid took place, told Law Enforcement News. "In think at this point in time, it begs to sit down and figure out what's going on here."

On Jan. 27 in the town of Hollis, federal agents handled a seizure of \$10 million worth of cocaine without notifying the York County sheriff. Then on March 14, a drug suspect was arrested by agents at the Days Inn in South Port-

land. Four days later, federal agents made an arrest at the Portland residence of a notorious motorcycle gang.

"I truly believe that this lack of communicating with us... put many people unnecessarily at risk, police officers, DEA agents, community members," Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood said in an interview with LEN. "My concern was that this can't occur without communication from the DEA. They can't do their job properly, and I can't do my job properly and too

many people become compromised."

The incident in Portland began when agents with the DEA and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms stalked out the home of David "Blood" Powell. His arrest at gunpoint, shortly after 7 p.m., led to a frantic 911 call from a woman who said men carrying guns were yelling in the street and trying to enter her building.

Four cruisers with a half-dozen officers raced to the scene. Approaching on foot with their guns drawn, they saw men armed with rifles and semiautomatic weapons. Fortunately, a sergeant spotted an ATF jacket.

"According to the officers at the scene, this was a very, very scary incident," Chitwood told The Portland Press Herald.

He addressed the issue by sending a letter the next day to John Brown, the DEA's acting administrator. The DEA has scheduled a meeting with Chitwood. And he told The Press Herald that he planned to write to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, to complain about the lack of interagency cooperation, despite heightened security measures throughout the nation.

"Apparently other chiefs in Maine have had similar concerns with the DEA and their lack of communicating," Chitwood told LEN. "I don't want to get involved in the politics of anything."

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Report exposes lie detector tests that await some Ohio rape victims

While it was never a secret, neither did dozens of Ohio police departments make it widely known that they administered polygraphs and other truth-verification tests to victims in sexual assault cases — that is, until a draft report by the state Department of Health brought the practice to light in February.

The study, conducted by a task force created in 2002 to examine how rape cases are prosecuted, found the practice to be widespread.

"We've let an awful lot of victims down," said W. Duncan Whitney, a Delaware County Common Pleas judge. "I have heard a lot of counties

say they are doing well, but they are taking only the easy cases."

Among the 10 key recommendations made by the task force was that all counties adopt "quality local protocols" that would establish an appropriate response to victims and support the pursuit of justice.

Whitney, a former prosecutor who served on the task force, blamed lazy police officials for not aggressively pursuing rape cases. He told The Columbus Dispatch that he was appalled to learn that polygraphs were used to gauge a victim's credibility.

Not true, police insist.

Lie-detectors and computerized voice-stress analyzers (CVSA), officials says, are used strictly as an investigative tool, on a voluntary basis, and only in those cases where it would help uncover the guilt or identity of an offender. Investigators will use them, however, when a victim's allegations raise red flags, particularly in cases of acquaintance rape, or when the accused is a family member.

"Obviously, you do this with sensitivity," said Chief Walter Ugrinic of the Shaker Heights Police Department, in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "The operator also has to have a

talent to sometimes help the person remember issues. In some cases it brings up deception, but in most cases it brings up evidence to help in the identity of a suspect — that's why we use it."

The Shaker Heights department is one of 40 in the state that engages in the lie-detection practice, according to the Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault.

Ed Roberts, a probation officer who retired in 1999 from the Fairfield Police Department, where he had headed the agency's detective bureau, said truth-verification tests were never administered arbitrarily, nor were they

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Around the Nation

Northeast



CONNECTICUT — The state Department of Homeland Security has set up a 24-hour hotline for residents to report non-emergency suspicions or concerns about possible terrorist activity. The number will be staffed by state and local police assigned to the office.

Enfield police charged Cheryl Allen of Springfield, Mass., with assault, reckless endangerment and breach of peace, after she allegedly sped away from a local shopping mall with her husband hanging out of the car window. Her husband, West Springfield Police Officer Thomas Allen, told investigators that he was working at a department store in the mall as a security officer. He and his wife were arguing when she took off and he had to grab the steering wheel and force the car into a snow bank to get her to stop the car.

Windsor's 55-member police union has agreed to freeze wage increases beginning July 1 as a first step in helping the town deal with a \$515,000 cut in state funding. Under the agreement, there will be no changes in the department's health and pension plans. Police Chief Kevin Searles and captains Kelvin Kearse and Timothy Triggs have also agreed to forgo their raises.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — In an effort to promote sensitivity, the Metro Transit Police will assign two officers to serve as liaisons to work with the gay, lesbian and transgender community.

The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations is distributing a "Community Safety Kit" for American Muslims, Arab-Americans and those who may be perceived as Middle Eastern. The kit outlines steps Muslim communities can take to protect themselves against bigotry and to secure legal rights, including developing relationships with law-enforcement agencies. Omar Ahmad, chairman of the council's board, said that he hopes the kits will help prevent bias-related incidents.

MARYLAND — Joseph Schultz, a motorist who was shot in the face after being mistaken for a bank robber, is seeking \$10 million in damages from three FBI agents from the bureau's Baltimore field office. His girlfriend, Kristen Harkum, who was in the car at the time but was not injured, is also seeking \$10 million. The three agents had received a tip that the robber was near a 7-11 store, wearing a white hat and traveling with a woman in a red car. At the time, Schultz was wearing a white hat, and he and Harkum were in a red car, leaving a 7-11. Agent Christopher Bragg said that he shot Schultz because he failed to keep his hands in plain sight.

MASSACHUSETTS — After receiving complaints of weapons malfunctions, Holyoke Police Chief Anthony R. Scott wants to replace his officers' Smith & Wesson service pistols with Glock semiautomatics. Two department gun experts and an FBI report concluded that the Glocks are more reliable.

The Waltham Police Department will

soon join about 30 other cities and towns across the state when it installs a Reverse 911 system. The system, which allows public safety agencies to make emergency announcements over the telephone, is expected to be in place by the summer.

NEW YORK — In early March, state police detachments in Jefferson, Lewis and Oswego counties started using the new state-run Spectrum Justice System computer program, and troopers in Onondaga, Oneida, Madison and Herkimer counties were expected to begin using it soon. The system, which will replace handwritten reports and blotter entries, collects and maintains data for all reported cases and can also be used to look at crime trends. To save money, troopers will not enter old data into the new system, but rather will refer to handwritten police blotters for older cases.

U. S. District Judge David Hurd ruled March 18 that Glenville Police Officer Keith McKenna, as well as the town of Glenville, can be sued after McKenna ran license plate checks for a friend who used the information to harass a group of insurance investigators and their families. William P. Niles's claim for disability benefits was being challenged in 1999 when he and another man, Garth Russell Johnston, got names and addresses from McKenna. They then videotaped the investigators' children and sent threatening notes. McKenna, who does not face criminal charges, claims that he didn't know what Niles and Johnston were going to do with the information. Niles and Johnston face criminal and civil charges.

A judge has sentenced former Rochester police officer Clint Jackson to two years in jail for improperly touching women's breasts and thighs while they were in his custody. Jackson, who was fired last year after an internal investigation, maintains that the contact was part of routine frisking.

PENNSYLVANIA — Richland Township Police Chief Stuart J. Woods, 39, died on March 4 after being rushed to the hospital complaining of shortness of breath. Woods had suffered from histoplasmosis, a fairly common lung disease, for a few years, but it was generally not thought to be life-threatening. He is survived by a wife and four children.

VERMONT — In Rutland, police union officials, the Police Commission and Police Chief Anthony Bossi have asked the city to drop a four-year-old residency requirement for police department employees. Police officials say that the ordinance has been making recruitment more difficult. They asked instead for the reinstatement of a former policy that required officers to live within a 30-minute drive of the department.

Civil libertarians are questioning why Montpelier police took photographs of local high school students who took part in an anti-war rally, but the department maintains that the photos were simply a part of good police procedure. Insisting that there was nothing sinister about the police actions, Police Chief Douglas Hoyt said the photos were not being used in a database and that there were legitimate police intelligence reasons for not getting rid of them.

Southeast



ALABAMA — U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions has called for a nationwide study of rape in prison, a phenomenon that he believes is rare. His own state, however, does not routinely report prison rapes. The state Department of Corrections publishes statistics on physical assaults but does not differentiate inmate-on-inmate sexual assaults.

Former FBI agent Charlie English Jr., 46, was sentenced March 6 to 2½ years in federal prison after child pornography charges against him were dropped but witness-tampering charges were upheld. The allegations stemmed from English's scheme to frame David Gano, the father of his stepdaughter, in order to end a stressful custody battle.

FLORIDA — Hillsborough police Sgt. Timothy Mark Brewer, 32, who was accused of breaking and entering and larceny in Alameda County, was arrested on new charges in Hillsborough. In addition to taking handguns from the police department and cash from a police employee, Brewer allegedly took cocaine and cash from the evidence area. He also allegedly broke into two town businesses while on duty. Brewer admitted to the charges in Alameda County, saying he committed the crimes to finance his cocaine habit.

GEORGIA — Following a joint investigation by the Cobb County Police Department and the Kennesaw State University campus police, a school spokeswoman announced that the student who claimed she was raped on March 5 had in fact fabricated the allegations. In addition to the investigation, the student's claim prompted school action, including town hall meetings and making a counselor available to students who express worries about their safety. It was not yet known whether the student would face charges.

The state Senate has passed a bill that will toughen sex-offender registration requirements, by making it a felony for them to live within 1,000 feet of a school, child care facility or other area where children congregate.

LOUISIANA — DNA evidence has confirmed that the slaying of Carrie Lynn Yoder, a 26-year-old Louisiana State University graduate student, is the work of a serial killer who has killed four other women in the past 18 months. A task force is trying to determine whether any other murdered women are connected to the killer.

Shreveport police Cpl. Jimmie Peck and former police officer Kevin Burford have been implicated in a string of crimes and will remain in jail pending trial on federal charges. Burford was caught breaking into an ATM while his wife waited in a vehicle in the parking lot. In the vehicle was a department-issued radio that Peck is accused of loaning to Burford on several occasions. An FBI agent testified that Burford, who allegedly retrieved \$45,000 from the ATM, paid Peck \$5,000 for using the radio. Burford was fired in 1997 for allegedly stealing a

handgun from a vehicle.

MISSISSIPPI — The state attorney general's office has ruled that police squad cars may not carry advertisements. The opinion was requested by Hinds County, where such a proposal was being considered as a way of obtaining new cars cheaply.

NORTH CAROLINA — The Elizabeth City Police Department will be using a new standardized paper form to record every drug complaint from local businesses and residents. The form will then be copied and sent to the department's drug enforcement officer and other police officials, who will use them to track and identify drug-prone hot spots. The new procedures mirror those of the Pasquotank-Elizabeth City Drug Task Force.

Former Cary police officer Robert Michael Maness, 41, has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from sexual acts that he engaged in with a 16-year-old girl while assigned as a school resource officer at Cary High School. Maness received a 45-day suspended sentence and two years probation. He was also ordered to turn in his law enforcement certificate and must pay the girl's father \$5,000 for any psychiatric therapy the girl may need. Because 16 is the age of consent in the state and the acts were consensual, he could not be charged with statutory rape.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Two men have been charged in connection with a failed attempt to spring Montana Freeman leader Leroy Schweitzer from the federal prison in Edgefield. Ervin Elbert Hurlbert, 82, and Donald Little, 55, walked into the prison lobby and claimed to be "Montana marshals," presenting fake documents and demanding Schweitzer's release. The Montana Freeman claim that they are sovereign and not subject to United States law.

VIRGINIA — Culpeper County sheriff's deputy Jason Compton, 27, is recovering after being struck by lightning March 21. Compton left his house during a storm to remove the radar unit from his police cruiser and after hearing a crash and seeing sparks fly, he collapsed. After realizing his legs were paralyzed, he used his elbows to drag himself back to his house. He was treated at a local hospital and released.

Richmond had no murder-suicides from 1999 to 2002, but already this year the city has had two such incidents, resulting in the deaths of six people. Both incidents involved a man killing his girlfriend or estranged girlfriend, then himself, prompting the city to increase its focus on domestic violence. The city recently received a two-year, \$932,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to set up a domestic violence-reduction program.

A public safety consultant commissioned last summer by town and county officials has recommended that Pulaski County law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies get rid of an outdated hodge-podge of radio systems and invest \$5.5 million in a countywide system. Currently, calls to 13 different emergency service agencies are handled by three dispatch centers. County emergency services coordinator Stan Crigger said that a new system would likely be phased in over five years.

Midwest



ILLINOIS — On March 4, Waukegan Police Chief Miguel Juarez died of a heart attack at age 50. Juarez was the department's first Hispanic police chief after rising through the ranks as the first Hispanic to hold the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief.

An increase in methamphetamine manufacturing and use throughout central Illinois has prompted legislators to float proposals to create new crimes or harsher sentences for meth-related offenses. One bill would force convicted manufacturers to repay government agencies for cleanup costs, and another would double penalties for makers who expose children. Another proposal would make it a crime to transport or possess meth ingredients.

The McLean County Sheriff's Department continues to search for solutions to its chronic radio problems. Repeaters were being considered, but tests showed they were not very effective. Two radio systems are now being considered as alternatives, as they may be cheaper than fixing the \$2.4-million E. F. Johnson 800-MHz system that was put into service about six years ago. Deputies have been complaining since the beginning about poor sound quality and gaps in reception.

Oak Park officials have agreed to let Police Chief Rick Tanksley keep his job, after he admitted to an affair with a female subordinate in the police department and promised not to repeat the extra-marital tryst. Tanksley, who had been on paid administrative leave since Jan. 10, still faces a 45-day unpaid suspension and 18 months of probation. A village spokesman said that the female employee had brought complaints to village officials.

Charlotte Gates of Peoria received a notice that her estranged husband was to be released from prison three days after she fatally shot him. Gates said she shot her husband, Christopher Lee Winder, 27, after he kicked in her door and began punching her. She grabbed a handgun and fired once. Winder ran out of the house and was later found dead. Officials said there was no failure of the state's victim notification system because Gates had never signed up to be notified through the system. Winder had been sent to prison for domestic battery and aggravated battery of another woman.

After his 22nd attempt at winning his freedom, Paul Fontani, 44, who spent 29 years in prison for murdering Downers Grove police officer Richard Barth, was paroled in March. Fontani was 15 when he shot Barth as the officer approached him and another youth while they were looking through loot from a burglary. Although Barth's family and friends were dismayed by the parole board's decision, the board said that Fontani had been a model inmate. He got his high school equivalency diploma and graduated with honors from college while in prison.

MICHIGAN — Detroit Police Chief Jerry Oliver said that at least 250 of the

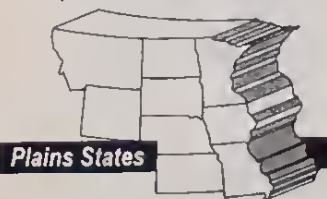
department's 3,900 officers are doing jobs that could easily be done by civilians. Some of the assignments, he added, are indefensible, noting that there are some officers who are assigned as clerks and do nothing but read reports. In a city where emergency response times average 19 to 20 minutes, a study by The Detroit Free Press found that some officers drive cars, take photographs, track the payroll, fix computers and hand out uniforms.

After Detroit police pulled over Joe Edward Canfield, a 31-year-old ex-convict, for running a stop sign last month, they discovered a pipe bomb in the back seat of his car. The street was closed for about five hours while police investigated and ultimately detonated the bomb, which was said to have the force of about two sticks of dynamite. Canfield was charged with possession of a destructive device and ordered held by the U. S. Marshal's Service. Police said they had no idea why the bomb was in the car, and Canfield was not cooperating.

OHIO — The Medical College of Ohio, which is closing its forensic toxicology lab, will work with coroners in northwest Ohio to find laboratories that can take over testing for toxic substances. Since 1985, the lab has done all the toxicology testing for coroners in Lucas County, and 17 other counties contract with Lucas for autopsies and other work. The lab function does not fit the college's primary missions of education, research and clinical care. The northwest counties said they should be able to set up alternative labs in short order, and college officials said they are willing to work out a deal for Lucas County to buy lab equipment.

The City of Parma has retained an independent prosecutor and is looking for a second in the midst of reports that many police officers padded their paychecks with overtime and sick-leave schemes. Residents, who were furious at the reports of the alleged scam at a time when their taxes are being raised, packed a City Council meeting and demanded that Mayor Gerald Boldt and Public Safety Director Robert Dybzinski resign. Dybzinski, who walked out of the meeting, said the overtime situation is questionable but that the problems were the result of clerical errors, not malicious intent.

WISCONSIN — Trial began March 9 for Tyson Kreuscher on two counts of first-degree intentional homicide for killing two Green Bay police officers. Prosecutors say Kreuscher, 28, was driving 65 mph when he rammed his pickup truck into the parked patrol car occupied by officers Robert Elter, 55, and Stephanie Markins, 32.



Plains States

IOWA — Police cruisers in Cedar Falls are being outfitted with new less conspicuous light bars, and wireless computers. The cruisers currently have laptops that can only connect to the network from the department or other permanent locations.

KANSAS — Temporary delays have

resulted in such things as citizens phoning in police reports or paying fines while city employees in Wichita learn to use a new computer system. Officials say, however, that the system should eventually yield significant improvements in crime data management.

MINNESOTA — Many of the 600 residents of Grove City are angry that their City Council voted 3-2 to get rid of its two-person police department and instead use a Meeker County deputy to patrol the town. The council claims that a budget shortfall of \$200,000 forced the decision, but critics say the budget was used as an excuse and that the decision was made for personal reasons. The contract arrangement with the county is expected to save Grove City \$150,000 over the next five years, according to city clerk Janell Johnson.

MISSOURI — More people are having to register as sex offenders, as a result of a new state law that requires such offenders to register with authorities within 10 days of their conviction, placement on probation or release from prison. The old law said that an inmate must register within 10 days of moving into any county, creating a loophole for offenders who never left their home counties after leaving prison.

Kansas City police officers will begin carrying beanbag shotguns as a less lethal option. The move comes in part as a response to the fatal shooting of a mentally ill man last year. Although police say they would not have used a beanbag gun in that case, as the man was coming toward officers holding two knives, the incident prompted officials to explore other options.

Allen Shelton, 33, has become the first person in the state to be charged with the federal crime of possessing body armor after a violent felony conviction. St. Louis police answered a disturbing-the-peace call at a Walgreen's store and arrested Shelton. They then discovered that he was wearing the body armor under his shirt.

Police in Wentzville and Lake Saint Louis will crack down on curfew violators during the spring break, after noticing a spike in property-damage crimes involving juveniles whenever there is a break from school. In Lake Saint Louis, anyone under 17 is barred from being out between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on weeknights and from midnight to 6 a.m. on weekends. In Wentzville, anyone under 17 must be in by 12:30 a.m. on weekends and 11 p.m. on weeknights.

MONTANA — In the latest in a series of cuts due to budget problems, Cascade County Sheriff John Strandell has eliminated the department's chaplain's position. Since last June, Strandell has cut four deputies, five detention officers and two clerical staff. The Rev. Terry L. Tyler, a former police and corrections officer whose chaplaincy was non-denominational, helped counsel staff and families, assisted crime victims, and accompanied officers with death notifications.

Police departments statewide are facing manpower shortages as many officers who serve in the National Guard or military reserves are being called to active duty. In Billings, two out of 125 officers have been called up, while the

Helena Police Department may also lose two officers. In Missoula County, two of its 97 officers have left and another two are preparing to go. The difficulty is in replacing the officers when the replacements are only temporary.

Many national parks in Montana and other Western states are concerned about law enforcement staffing as rangers' workloads, already under a strain, must now accommodate an increase in drug-related crimes. Many of the problems are attributed to the demand for drugs created by temporary service employees, who are mostly young, seasonal workers on college break.



Southwest

ARIZONA — Mesa police Sgt. Mike Johnson reads many meanings into the police motto "to protect and to serve," so lately he and some other officers have been spending one day a week doing yard work for 85-year-old Shonnie Adams. Johnson got the idea from one of his squad members, Officer Steve Jones, who responded to Adams's home on March 1 when her husband died. Jones noticed how overgrown the property was and decided to round up some help for Adams. Johnson said that this type of policing "is more gratifying than going out and arresting drug dealers, burglars and other people who want to break the law."

Thirty-one patients have been released from the Arizona State Hospital since the enactment of the state's "guilty but insane" law in 1995. Of those, 12 had their releases revoked for missing appointments, using illicit drugs or failing to take the proper medication.

The U.S. Border Patrol has begun patrolling the Colorado River with a \$30,000 hovercraft. The vehicle, which allows agents to respond quickly to rescues and chases, whether on land or water, is also loud enough to let people know it's there.

In late March, the body of a woman was found near where four other women's bodies have been found in the last eight months. Police are investigating whether the deaths are related. Three of the women were prostitutes and one was a transient. All were in their 30s and four had drugs in their systems.

The U. S. Attorney's office in Flagstaff reports that on the Navajo reservation, violent crime is six times the national average, and in some towns even higher. The office handled 65 prosecutions in death cases in a two-year period and the majority of those cases involved alcohol abuse.

The Fraternal Order of Police in Mesa is asking the city to impose a property tax to ease the strain on the city treasury. FOP president Bill Everson wrote in his organization's newsletter that the city's sources of income, including state-shared revenue, sales taxes and utility fees, are not reliable and that only a property tax would provide a stable income. Many residents, particularly the elderly living on fixed incomes, are strongly opposed.

As part of a broad counterterrorism plan, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the self-styled "toughest sheriff in America," has obtained equipment that includes a \$12,000 machine gun purchased with money taken from drug dealers. The Browning M2 belt-fed machine gun is a World War II-era weapon that can fire up to 550 .50-caliber rounds per minute. It will be mounted on the sheriff's department's armored personnel carrier. Other recent department purchases include computer tools that scan eyes and recognize facial features and two bomb robots.

UTAH — Logan police are planning to use a drug-sniffing dog in periodic searches of the parking lot, hallways and locker rooms at the local high school. Police hope the random K-9 searches will discourage students from bringing drugs to school.



Far West

CALIFORNIA — Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief David Kalish has been placed on paid leave following a criminal investigation into accusations that he sexually molested a youth in the 1970s. The complaint came from a man who said that he was harassed and sexually molested by Kalish while he was in the Explorers. Kalish, 49, is the department's highest-ranking openly gay officer, and is said to be fair-minded and well liked in both the department and the community. The district attorney's office is considering whether to file charges.

Los Angeles Police Officer Richard Piffard, 30, pleaded not guilty in March to charges that he stole illegal assault weapons that had been turned in by the public. Piffard was caught by internal affairs officers investigating a tip that he was interested in acquiring illegal guns and silencers. If convicted, he faces up to six years in prison.

Santa Paula Police Chief Bob Gonzales has created a two-person gang unit to combat an increase in crimes. While the overall number of violent crimes dropped from 2001 to 2002, homicides jumped from zero to six. One of those was gang-related and another is believed to be. The number of rapes also increased last year, from one to four.

About 150 Los Angeles sheriff's deputies staged a sickout on March 11, resulting in 500 inmates missing court hearings. A three-year contract expired Jan. 31 and the deputies are asking for a 3-percent salary hike for each of the next three years. Roy Burns, president of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, said the sickout was not staged by the union.

On March 21, San Francisco police found a backpack full of Molotov cocktails in an area where anti-war demonstrators had been dodging police. The bag was found by a man with Down's syndrome who brought his discovery to a friend. Authorities believe a protester stashed the explosives after riot police swept through the area, and said it raises the level of caution police must take

during the demonstrations.

Gerald F. Mason, the 68-year-old South Carolina man who was arrested more than 45 years after he gunned down two H.I. Segundo police officers, pleaded guilty March 24 to two counts of murder and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison with the possibility of parole. Mason was found after latent fingerprints taken from the 1949 Ford driven by the officers' killer were submitted to a relatively new FBI database and matched to him.

Los Angeles County officials have offered \$2.75 million to settle a lawsuit brought by 69 bicyclists who claim they were strip-searched and mistreated after their arrest at the 2000 Democratic National Convention. The attorney for the plaintiffs said the lawsuit is one of three that prompted the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to reexamine its strip-search practices. The bicyclists were arrested after they blocked a thoroughfare, went through a stop sign and rode the wrong way on a one-way street. The 23 women in the group were illegally strip-searched and forced to undergo body-cavity searches. The men were not strip-searched but say they were denied medication, access to telephones and a timely arraignment.

HAWAII — In response to the shooting death of Honolulu Police Officer Glen Gaspar by a man convicted of 14 prior crimes, Republican lawmakers have proposed "three strikes" legislation. Gaspar was shot while trying to arrest Shane Mark.

OREGON — The three citizen trustees of the Portland police pension board have pressed Chief Mark Kroeker to make improving the police bureau's work environment a top priority. The move came in response to the number of police disability claims, one-third of which are stress-related, with many of the officers citing "a hostile work environment" inside the bureau. Kroeker has acknowledged the concerns but said that stress will only grow with recent cuts in state and county funding for courts, prosecution and jails.

WASHINGTON — Supporters of the Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program are lobbying Spokane County commissioners for more money to keep the program alive after Sheriff Mark Sterk proposed moving the two DARE deputies back to patrol. Sterk said reassigning the two deputies is part of a plan to provide better law enforcement coverage in unincorporated areas in the county. Commissioners said the county is dramatically short of funds, with a \$5-million revenue shortfall this year and a projected \$8-million deficit next year.

Murray J. Morrison, who died in a shootout with King County sheriff's deputies March 16, left a suicide note with wording that was nearly identical to a note found in a "suicide by cop" case in Long Island, N.Y., in 1997. Morrison, 51, was shot by deputies he had fired on, after a woman went to a police station to report that he was threatening suicide. Morrison wrote in the note, "To the officer who shot me... it was a plan. I'm sorry to get you involved..." In the 1997 case, a similar note was found after a 19-year-old student, who was depressed over gambling debts, was shot to death by police.

Armchair sleuth

Computer techniques developed by a Michigan State University criminology professor who had had her identity stolen will be used to help the FBI track down terrorists who use stolen or fabricated Social Security numbers and other fake documents.

Judith Collins created the process she calls "fingerprinting" at her computer lab at the University in East Lansing. It searches some 2,000 Web sites for tracks that thieves might have left online. She also developed mathematical models to predict how criminals might work and behave together.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission received 163,400 reports of identity theft.

According to Dennis Lormel, who heads the FBI's Terrorist Financing Operations Section, combining Collins's model with an FBI scoring system will give agents a more comprehensive mechanism for detecting suspicious financial activity.

"Potentially, she could bring a great deal to the table," he said. "I'm optimistic that we can adapt some of what she's done to what we're doing."

Collins contacted Lormel after seeing a copy of his testimony in July before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on terrorists' use of false identities.

In 2000, she had her own identity stolen by a ring of thieves operating in five states. Using her Social Security number, they obtained credit cards and charged thousands of dollars of merchandise. While she provided the details of her case to the Secret Service, Collins does not know if the thieves were ever caught.

As for her new assignment, Collins will not be given access to any classified information. She and her associates at Identity Theft Partnerships in Prevention, a research lab she launched in 1999, will investigate some terrorist-related cases after they are reviewed by the bureau.

The research lab now examines an average of about five cases per week.

"I've always studied criminals, and this is just another criminal," she told *The Lansing State Journal*. "I won't be out running around over in Pakistan looking for anyone. I'll be in my cozy office with my computer."

Back to D.C.

he New York City Police Department is losing its top counterterrorism official, Frank Libutti, after a little more than a year on the job.

Libutti, a former Marine Corps general, has been nominated to serve as undersecretary for information analysis and infrastructure protection at the Department of Homeland Security, according to a White House announcement made last month.

"He has had an outstanding career in public service and is extremely well qualified to serve as undersecretary," said White House spokeswoman Ashley Snee.

In his new position, Libutti will be responsible for analyzing intelligence from the Central Intelligence Agency

and the FBI, and disseminating information on infrastructure protection to local, state and federal agencies, as well as the private sector.

"We are honored the White House has selected someone who has served the New York City Police Department with such skill and dedication," said Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly. "We wish him well and know he will serve the nation with the same distinction he displayed here in New York."

Prior to joining the NYPD, Libutti was the Defense Department's special assistant to the White House Office of Homeland Security.

During his 14-month tenure in New York, Libutti helped turn the NYPD's focus from crime-fighting to counterterrorism. The command-and-control center he established for the agency monitors developments overseas and assesses city buildings for potential weaknesses, and a counterterrorism bureau is responsible for training thousands of officers in preventing and responding to attacks.

SD's loss, Feds' gain

A "major strength" in pulling together the community and law enforcement, San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano is expected to be leaving the agency he has led for the past four years to assume command of the city's field office of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Bejarano was appointed by President Bush last month. Although applying for the post was a difficult decision, Bejarano said, he could not turn down a presidential appointment.

Should he be confirmed by the Senate, which seems likely, Bejarano will oversee a field office described as one of the nation's busiest. Some 2,000 defendants are transported by marshals there each day, a figure twice what the agency handled 10 years ago, said Marshals Service spokesman James Schield. Five new judgeships will also add to the workload.

Bejarano will be the first permanent boss the field office has had since 1998. The Senate never confirmed the nomination of Steven C. Stafford, who has been acting marshal since 2000. He replaced Steve Gregg, who was appointed by President Clinton.

"It's going to be great to have him as our boss — someone with that much experience, who is familiar with the Marshals Service and who is respected in the community, throughout the state in the White House," said Schield.

Those who know Bejarano say they were not surprised by his move. The new post, some say, should be a springboard to still higher law enforcement positions, perhaps in Washington.

"We are losing a gracious human being," said police Lt. Miguel Rosario. "He was a working-class guy who served the department up the ranks."

As head of the Marshals in San Diego, Bejarano will go from leading a force of 2,074 sworn officers to supervising about 70 deputy marshals and 45 court security officers. His salary will rise from \$128,000 to \$140,000.

An unassuming style and humble personality are said to be among the chief's strengths as a leader. Although he has come under some fire for leaving the agency when it is faced with a

Making his bones

Famed sculptor is a secret weapon in missing-person cases

He's a sculptor of international renown, but to those in law enforcement, Philadelphia artist Frank Bender is a secret weapon capable of recreating from just the bones a face so uncannily like that of its owner that he is credited with helping investigators around the country solve their most stubborn missing-persons cases.

"I was very skeptical," said Robert Gerken, a retired Pennsylvania State Police corporal who sent Bender his first human skull in 1981. It was put in a box and delivered to the artist, who asked the agency to call back in three weeks.

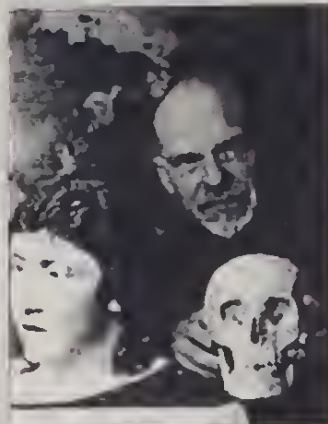
During that time, Bender was able to mold the face of a woman with a severe overbite and dark hair. Using a lens found at the scene by police, Bender found eyeglass frames to match it.

The bones turned out to be the remains of a Salisbury Township woman, Linda Keyes, who had died on April 19, 1979. Keyes' father saw a picture of Bender's work in a newspaper. He and another daughter identified her.

"I learned a lot from that case," said Gerken. "I was convinced Frank Bender could help solve cases."

Since then, Bender has done 28 sculptures for police. Each takes approximately one month, and he charges \$1,700 — the amount he says agencies are willing to pay. In his most recent case, he was asked to help identify a man whose decapitated and dismembered body was found in two burn barrels last summer in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

According to State Police Cpl. Thomas C. McAndrew, pictures



Frank Bender, with some of his handiwork.

of the re-creation will be printed on a circular and mailed to law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"We got a couple of calls, but nothing has panned out," he said. "But we're trying to get as much exposure to his work as possible. We might not have had the picture distributed to the right areas of the country where somebody might recognize him."

Bender, 61, is also a founding member of the Vidocq Society, an organization of 82 individuals who, upon request, will put their considerable forensic expertise to work on tough investigations. [See LEN, July/August 2002.]

When constructing his sculptures, Bender works with a chart that gives tissue thickness for 21 points of the face, depending on a victim's age, race and ethnicity. But it is the skull that is the "road map of the face," abetted by a healthy dose of Bender's own intuition.

"If I rely on averages, I end up with an average head," said Bender. Among his most famous re-

creations was that of John List, an accountant who murdered his mother, wife and three children in their New Jersey home in 1971, then disappeared. Working with a profiler, Bender was able to come up with a clay bust that was shown on "America's Most Wanted." List was captured a few days after the program aired in 1989.

Another was Anna Mary Duval, a 62-year-old Phoenix woman who had been shot three times in the head. Years later, mobster John Martini was convicted of her murder.

Bender also does age reconstructions, some of which have led to the capture of drug traffickers and gangsters.

In 1992, the U.S. Marshals Service named him citizen of the year for his help in creating, based on 14-year-old photos, a bust of mob boss Alphonse "Allie Boy" Persico that was accurate enough to help authorities make an arrest within four months. Persico had been at large for seven years.

And it was Bender's pastel-and-charcoal renderings, along with busts, of Robert Nauss, a convicted killer and former head of the Warlocks motorcycle gang, and Hans Vorhauer, a methamphetamine manufacturer with a genius IQ, that helped investigators find the pair after they broke out of a Maryland prison in the mid-1980s.

"I want to know as much about them as possible," said Bender. "I want to know as much about them as I would my own family."

He figured — correctly, as it turned out — that Nauss, who liked nice cars and good clothes, would clean up visually after being away from the biker element.

number of issues, including a \$6 million to \$8 million budget shortfall, his popularity within the agency and in the community has remained constant.

When the agency was criticized for the shootings of a National Football League player and of a stick-wielding disturbed man, Bejarano added more non-lethal weapons to its arsenal. And he was able to maintain the city's 10-year decline in crime.

"Chief Bejarano is clearly one of the most competent and effective police chiefs in the United States," said City Manager Michael Ueberuaga. "He operates what I believe to be one of the most outstanding departments in the country."

Back in the game

Yet another former commander of the Illinois State Police has been summoned out of retirement to lead the force.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich this month appointed Larry Trent to succeed Sam Nolen, who had himself come out of retirement to serve as director under former Gov. George Ryan.

Trent, 55, left the agency 10 years ago as commander of the agency's District 11 in Collinsville. His law enforcement and management abilities will be valuable as the State Police takes on expanded anti-terrorism responsibilities, said Blagojevich, who announced a new terrorism intelligence center to be operated by the department.

"I'm very excited," said Trent. "Think about any job you've ever had and you think about how would you do this or that if you were in charge," he told *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "Now, I've got that chance."

A decorated Vietnam War veteran, Trent became a patrol officer in the Chicago area in 1971. After retiring from the State Police in 1993, he joined the private sector, as a vice president of Argosy Gaming Co., supervising security and investigations. Since June, he has served as president for Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois.

Nolen had been called out of retirement in 1999 by Ryan. He had retired in 1991 following 38 years with the agency, including a brief stint as its acting director.

Although he was expected to leave on Dec. 31, Nolen agreed to stay through the new administration's transition. An agency spokesman, Rick Hector, said Nolen resigned for per-

sonal reasons, and that the decision to leave had nothing to do with a critical state audit released last month.

Friction fiction

Former Los Angeles police chief Bernard C. Parks — newly elected to a City Council seat — and Mayor James Hahn have said they will not let a contentious past stand in the way of working together to solve public issues in the future.

Parks, who as the LAPD's chief was one of the city's most prominent black officials, easily won election March 4 in the Eighth District in South Central Los Angeles, rolling up 78 percent of the vote. He resigned last year as chief after Hahn refused to back him for a second term.

But at his victory party, Parks said that "people that want to create friction can create friction." He and Hahn, he said, are "issue people."

Said Hahn: "I'm somebody who's easy to work with. I don't carry grudges. I'm interested in working with people. There's a lot of good stuff that we need to work on here in this city."



Sudden impact

An Oakland, Calif., police officer fires a shotgun loaded with pellet-filled bean bags toward a group of anti-war protesters near the Port of Oakland on April 7. Police also fired rubber and wooden pellets to disperse hundreds of protesters, in what was believed to be the first such use of the less-than-lethal rounds against demonstrators since the war on Iraq began. (Reuters)

Corporal punishment: Sheriff in hot water over rank changes

When Kanawha County, W. Va., Sheriff Dave Tucker restructured the department's ranking system in March, he was simply making the title fit the job, according to an attorney representing the sheriff's department.

Tucker ran into trouble when he changed the ranks of 36 officers without raises or promotional testing, and eliminated the rank of corporal. The restructuring, he said, was intended to comport with officers' current duties.

"In effect there really were no promotions," said John Teare, the agency's legal counsel, in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "We have guys here holding the rank of corporal as shift commanders and sometimes sergeants who are acting as shift commanders. In a lot of your larger departments — larger by West Virginia standards — your first-line supervisors ought to be sergeants, and your shift commanders lieutenants. That's not out of the ordinary. The only thing that was done was everybody moved up a new title. Nobody's duties changed, nobody got a pay raise, nobody was promoted over another person."

At the time of the restructuring, nobody held the rank of captain within the

agency, said Teare.

"The intent was never to promote or change anybody's position, vis-à-vis another person. Everyone's in the same spot, the same job, same responsibility, same pay. My understanding is that the pay is similar to what pay for the new rank would be in other agencies," Teare noted, "so nobody's been withheld a pay raise, they were already being paid at a level commensurate with their responsibilities."

But some officers are complaining that however "nice" a promotion might be, one that comes without a salary increase is unlikely to win any kudos from the force.

It "isn't going to make anyone happy," said Sgt. J.A. Cottrill, who had been a corporal until his rank was eliminated and he was bumped up the ladder. "The probability of litigation regarding this latest move is very, very high."

Cottrill told The Charleston Daily Mail that the move has already resulted in some unfair status changes for deputies. For example, one individual who has been with the agency for four years has already moved through the rank of corporal to sergeant. Another was made

a lieutenant after having earned the rank of sergeant within the past two years.

"The sheriff's department's interpretation, that this is a reorganization, is probably the only interpretation like that in the United States," said Cottrill. "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. And these are promotions."

Tucker is not the only sheriff in the state to get rid of the rank of corporal, which is not considered a supervisory rank by West Virginia's Law Enforcement Training Committee, and to make an across-the-board sweep in an effort to improve efficiency. The difference is that he did not go through the county's Civil Service Commission.

Wood County Deputy Terry Miller, president of the state deputies' association, said his agency made such a change at least four years ago. It did go through Civil Service, however, and some deputy's salaries were increased.

Kent Carper, president of Kanawha's Civil Service Commission, said the agency should have had a role in the restructuring.

"A real civil service commission would revolt against this," he told The Daily Mail. "In the end, it's taking money away from the deputies."

Tucker's estimation, that it will save the department some \$67,000 in 2003 and up to \$600,000 over the next decade, has been disputed.

Cottrill maintains that it will cost the agency \$90,000 this year, and nearly a million dollars over the next 10 years, including hundreds of thousands in attorneys fees.

"I don't know where they got their figures, but they must have used the same program the county used to figure withholdings and taxes," he said.

The restructuring will have little impact on the officers except in terms of respect, said Teare. To the outside world, he said, the new ranks reflect the significance of the duties being performed.

Iowa wrestles with whether to put training before hiring

A long-simmering battle in Iowa heated up last month between those who advocate allowing civilians to enter the police academy, and those who contend that such a move would open the profession to unworthy candidates.

At issue is Iowa Code 80B, which authorizes the state's academies to train only those already hired as officers. According to Sioux City Chief Joe Frisbie, that requirement costs departments too much money, and creates a public safety concern by potentially allowing untrained officers to be deployed.

The law gives departments up to a year in which to send rookies to the academy for either a 13-week or an eight-week training program.

"If you were to be hired by a police department in the state of Iowa, you could literally be put to work on the street, with full uniform, gun, the whole nine yards," he said in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "To my way of thinking, that is the most bizarre thing I've ever heard in my life. I think it's extremely dangerous to be the person performing those duties, and I think it's a liability issue for the people who hired them."

What Frisbie and others have proposed through legislation is to permit academies to take applicants who have not already been hired. The 13-week course, commonly called the long course, is intended for those with no college background. The eight-week program, or short course, is open to individuals who have either a two-year degree in police science or a four-year degree in criminal justice.

Training is administered through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, but can be received through the Western Iowa Tech Community College, or Hawkeye Tech Community College.

Legislation Frisbie drafted has already been reviewed by the appropriate state House and Senate committees.

"Just based on what they've already put behind them, there's no question they want to be a police officer," he said. "Most of these people, the instructors know them fairly well by this time. What I would like to see happening is the law changed from 'has to be a police officer' to say 'police officer, or other individuals.'"

That modification would save departments upwards of \$10,000 for each officer who has to take the 13-week course, said Frisbie, and cost the officer only \$2,000.

"The ILEA doesn't want to deal with this," he said. "The reality is, they need to start changing their attitude. They need to understand that law enforcement is one of the last disciplines out there that hires people first and trains them later.... We're one of the last disciplines in the world that does it backwards."

According to Chief Tom Wardlow of the Newton Police Department, who is president of the Iowa Police Executive Forum, the organization's membership voted on a resolution to present to the ILEA last November favoring a change similar to what Frisbie has proposed.

"The concern on most chief executives' minds is shortening the recruiting and hiring time, and also shortening the training time that a department

has to invest, as well as the money through that endeavor," he told LEN. "I know that's one of the reasons it has received support from chiefs."

But the ILEA contends that stringent rules that screen who can become an officer could be compromised if civilians are allowed to attend the academy.

"It would lessen the standards," Penny Westfall, the academy's director,

Getting the cream of the crop, or just skim milk?

told The Sioux City Journal. "The cream of the crop are coming to the academy and if there wasn't the selection process of hiring, it would be that maybe the skim milk was coming to the academy."

Criminals could inadvertently be taught law enforcement tactics, or people who never intend to become police officers, said Westfall.

Frisbie dismissed that assertion. "We're not teaching secrets," he said. "Everyone is concerned that we're going to be teaching this secret stuff. There are no secrets out there. They're already teaching in those two-year police science courses everything and a whole hell of a lot more of what's being taught in the academy."

And even if the law were to be modified, it would still be ILEA that would have to approve the curriculum and the instructors, Frisbie noted.

Law Enforcement News

Founded 1975
A publication of John Jay College
of Criminal Justice,
City University of New York
Gerald W. Lynch, President

Marie Simonetti Rosen
Publisher

Peter C. Dodenhoff
Editor/Associate Publisher

Jennifer Nislow
Associate Editor

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Correspondents: Walt Francis, Tom Gitchell, T.L. Tyler, Ron Van Raalte

Law Enforcement News is © 2003 and published twice monthly (once monthly during July and August) by LEN Inc. and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 555 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019. Telephone (212) 237-8442. Fax (212) 237-8486. E-mail len@jjay.cuny.edu. Subscription rates \$28 per year (22 issues). Advertising rates available upon request.

Requests for permission to reprint any portion of Law Enforcement News in any form should be addressed to Marie Simonetti Rosen, Publisher. ISSN: 0364-1724. Law Enforcement News is available in microform from University Microfilms Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Dept. P.R., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

IACP helps agencies get a handle on hate

The International Association of Chiefs of Police will provide a free guide to confronting hate-motivated crimes.

"Responding to Hate Crimes: A Police Officer's Guide to Investigation and Prevention," covers such issues as the legal definition of a hate crime; actions that need to be taken at the scene; best approaches for handling victims, and key indicators that such a crime has been committed.

"Law enforcement executives throughout the United States are committed to preventing and responding to

crimes motivated by hate or bias," said IACP president Joseph Samuels, the police chief of Richmond, Calif. "Hate crimes have a profound impact on victims and on communities and present unique challenges to law enforcement agencies."

The guide will enhance the ability of police to combat hate crimes and intolerance in communities nationwide, he said.

Copies of the guide can be obtained by contacting IACP at 1-800-THE-ICAP, ext. 216, or through the association's Web site at www.theiacp.org.

Police reach for answers to false alarms

Continued from Page 1

Another approach with limited effectiveness is creating, via statute, an escalating fine system. Owners are not fined until they have several false alarms. A permit is usually required, as well, which allows police to track and fine abusers. But the fine collected is usually allocated to a general fund, rather than the police budget.

Some of the department that have instituted these measures include Albuquerque, where city officials in February proposed a \$25 annual permit fee, and a service fee of \$150 for false alarms. Police there responded to 33,000 false alarms in 2002, at a cost of 27 full-time officers needed to handle those calls.

The Duluth Police Department drafted a proposal in February that would penalize owners who had too many false alarms, and require an annual registration fee. A three-officer unit was dispatched to approximately 2,000 false alarms in 2002.

Last month, the Providence, R.I., City Council gave preliminary approval to a system of fines. Owners would be charged \$25 for the first false alarm up to \$100 for the fifth, and every one

thereafter.

And in April, the Detroit Police Department said it would consider verified response after having chased 162,000 burglar alarms last year — some 24 percent of all police runs. Of those, fewer than 1 percent were actual burglaries. Two addresses had more than 100 false alarms; 39 residences had more than 50.

The department is in the midst of a 90-day pilot program at two precincts where alarm calls exceed the city's average to see if the plan could work.

"We tried that, and we achieved a 16-percent reduction in 1994," said Salt Lake City's Werner. "By the second year, it was back up by 13 percent. Anything is better than nothing. You're probably using 25 percent to 26 percent of your patrol."

To achieve a reduction in the 45 percent to 50 percent range without using verified response is extremely labor intensive, Sampson said.

"What works besides this? Nothing much," she said.

Why, then, has verified response not spread through law enforcement like wildfire? The lobbying efforts of the alarm industry, say experts.

In Los Angeles this month, police agreed to continue responding to burglar alarms, but owners would face fines after the first false alarm. After three false alarms, a unit would be dispatched only if a crime in progress was reported.

The change in policy was recommended by a 26-member task force that included residents and burglar-alarm industry representatives. Both groups had sharply opposed a proposal for verified response made by Police Chief William Bratton earlier this year.

During a packed City Council meeting in January, a resident of the city's Brentwood section argued that if Bratton's plan were put into action, women and children in Los Angeles would be "in extreme danger of being raped, mutilated, maimed and murdered in the luxury of their own homes."

Alarm companies help police by expediting their response, insisted Matt Clink, a vice president of Cerrell Associates Inc., a Los Angeles lobbying firm hired by Southern California alarm companies.

"A policy of no police response is basically nonworkable in Los Angeles," he told The New York Times in January. "It would require the alarm companies to hire fleets of cars and guard to do the inspections."

Although the Police Commission backed the initiative unanimously, the City Council voted 12-to-1 to reconsider and assumed jurisdiction over the issue.

"The alarm industry is very wealthy, they have lots of funds at their disposal and they are a very loud minority," said

COPS guides tackle disorder issues

The guide to false alarms published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is the fifth in a series of books aimed at helping police improve their response to specific crimes of disorder, and preventing these offenses.

Written for officers of all ranks, the guides first came out in 2001. They work best, according to the agency, when used by police to find the best method for dealing with a problem that has already been identified — such as false alarms.

"We've gotten nothing but positive feedback on them," said Michael S. Scott, executive director of the

Center for Problem-Oriented Policing Inc., in Savannah, Ga., and a consultant for the COPS office. "There are 20 out in the initial series, and an additional 15 are in production now."

The POP guides tackle such topics as acquaintance rape; assaults in and around bars; bullying in schools; drug dealing in privately-owned apartment complexes; street prostitution; shoplifting; robberies at ATM machines; misuse and abuse of 911; graffiti, and loud car stereos.

New titles will include crimes against tourists; prescription fraud; and police response to the mentally ill, said Scott.

Werner. "One of the things they do is they tend to send letters out to their alarm users with spins on the truth, half-truths, like saying police are no longer coming to your alarms. They love to use the term 'no response,' which it is not."

Verified response is a "hot potato" issue in many communities, agreed Michael S. Scott, a consultant for the COPS office and executive director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing Inc., in Savannah, Ga.

But while verified response is opposed vehemently by the industry, some are coming to realize that the practice could be turned into profit, Scott told

LEN. Costs for contracting with private security firms are then passed on to the customer.

In Salt Lake City, ADT Security Services Inc., the nation's largest alarm company, billed owners a surcharge of \$5 after the legislation was passed. Instead of \$24.95 a month, customers were charged \$29.95 with guard response included, Werner said.

In the case of Los Angeles, ADT acknowledged that it could profit by charging more for its service, but Barry Kinney, the firm's regional vice president, still opposed Bratton's plan on the grounds of public safety.

Maine chiefs say DEA stomps on their toes

Continued from Page 1

but this is a major stumbling block. I'm hearing grumblings from other chiefs that there could be a turf war between the federal DEA and the Maine DEA. I think other chiefs are looking to address that issue."

Indeed, York County Sheriff Philip Cote told The Press Herald that he believed there was a turf battle in progress.

"You can understand it to the extent that it's human nature to want your agency to shine, but I think when it comes to the public safety and so forth, even officer safety, I think you need to draw the line there."

Hollis, where the first of the three incidents occurred, is a small, rural community that has a contract with Cote's department to provide law enforcement services.

According to Ouellette, a former State Police officer who spent six years working with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, federal agents never made contact with his agency before making a bust in a housing development. They ended up seizing 300 kilograms of cocaine, believed to be the biggest bust in Maine history.

It was just coincidence, Ouellette told LEN, that on that night the deputy sheriff who patrols that area was out. If he had been patrolling, the results could have been disastrous. "There are so many 'what ifs,'" said Ouellette.

When Hollis officials called the sheriff's department to discuss the raid after the fact, Ouellette said he had no idea what they were talking about.

"I got on the phone with the Maine DEA and the state officer who took my place when I came here said he didn't have any idea what was going on either," he said.

To date, Ouellette said, he has never received a return phone call from the DEA saying, "We're sorry or it won't happen again."

According to Anthony Pettigrew, a

Boston-based spokesman for the DEA, the failure to notify police was a mistake, not a conscious decision based on any interagency rivalry. What should not get lost in the story, he maintained, is that a significant amount of cocaine was taken off the streets.

United States Attorney Paula Silsby called the error in Portland an "isolated, unfortunate incident."

Typically, law enforcement communicates well, she told The Press Herald, citing an anti-terrorism task force overseen by her office that relies on the cooperation of local, state and federal departments.

"Mistakes are going to happen, but to suggest this is reflective of a lack of effective communication, at least in this state, I think is a gross overstatement," said Silsby.

Roy McKinney, director of the Maine DEA, said he has met with officials from the federal agency to discuss better communication so that both agencies are not investigating the same dealers. But officers in his department, who are on loan from local agencies, always notify police in the community.

"In fact," added Ouellette, "we took along a uniform from that agency for the simple reason that people get hurt if they don't know what's going on."

Ouellette said he understands the need for secrecy in a drug operation, but a phone call a half hour or even 10 minutes before the raid would prevent local authorities from rolling out the troops when a resident sees an out-of-state car carrying men with guns.

"I remember reading in the paper that [the DEA supervisor] said what people need to realize is that this was a big score of drugs," he told LEN. "Okay, that's fine, but let's look at the bigger picture. Sometimes that score goes to hell in a hand basket if something goes wrong. What's the price of an officer getting shot, or a civilian, because they want to make a big score?"

At "ground zero" for homeless, LA sheriff eyes 24/7 service center

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca has proposed that an open-air center be created that would provide services to the portion of the area's homeless population that chooses to remain on the streets.

The recommendation comes six months after the sheriff's department convened a summit with community leaders and activists to address the issue. Calling the county the "ground zero" of homelessness, experts estimate that some 84,000 people there live outdoors or in emergency shelters each night.

"All the plans that are being set in motion, they address homelessness but very globally," said Karen Dalton, director of the agency's correction services division. "There's not a lot of specifics to the service-resistant, and that's really what Baca's plan is. He's not trying to step on anyone's toes, or take away from what anyone's doing."

Three years ago, she told Law Enforcement News, the sheriff spoke with homeless people living on the city's skid row, she said. They later crashed a meeting Baca had called with civic leaders and activists, taking Baca to task for not soliciting their input when decisions were to be made.

Out of these and several other meetings, a list of about 40 critical needs and issues as defined by the homeless themselves was drawn up. These issues include shelter programs where requirements are too high, emergency shelters open 365 days a year, effective case management, greater resources devoted



Sheriff Lee Baca

to the issue, the discharging of inmates straight from jail onto the streets, and community service providers who will send workers to skid row.

"The sheriff came up with the idea of the Homeless Public Safety Center," said Dalton. "One of the things the people talked about is that it was their choice to be on the streets, it's what they wanted to do, but they didn't feel safe down there, especially with the crime and the sweeps down there and things like that," she said.

According to a brochure published by the sheriff's department, the safety center would be designed as a series of open-air pods, providing shelter but not confinement. They will have a central kitchen, laundry and bathroom facilities.

The center will not be a drop-in shelter,

however. There will be only one entrance/exit point secured by a low wall or hedge, with the perimeter patrolled 24-hours a day. Individuals will be screened at an off-site location to assess their probability for success in a transitional program, according to the brochure.

Dalton said that the sheriff's department has been in touch with Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton about such issues as decentralizing the homeless issue by bringing service providers into the city's downtown.

However, Baca and Bratton disagree on the question of criminalizing panhandling. Law enforcement, the sheriff has argued, should be about helping the homeless find services, not rounding them up. Bratton, on the other hand, has made a priority of cleaning up skid row by cracking down on quality-of-life crimes.

Bratton, she noted, plans to bring out to Los Angeles Dr. George Kelling, a professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University and co-author of the "broken windows" crime-fighting model.

"He is going to be working for Bratton," she said. "We'll be brought into the process."

Some of the other recommendations made by Baca following the summit include diverting arts funding to pay for homeless programs and enacting new zoning laws that would preclude neighborhoods from keeping facilities out of communities and concentrating them downtown.

No magic in these numbers

Police run afoul of rally organizers with crowd size estimates

Counting protesters has become a touchy political issue.

After watching the U.S. Park Police and other law enforcement agencies run into trouble over the years when their estimates of crowd sizes at protest rallies fell short of those given by organizers, police around the country have decided to take a pass on handing out specific numbers.

In 1995, in hopes of avoiding a lawsuit, the Nation of Islam and the National Park Service agreed to let researchers from Boston University review a Park Police estimate of the crowd that attended The Million Man March.

While Park Police gave a written estimate of 400,000, which would have made it the fourth-largest event on the Mall up till that time, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan claimed that at least 1 million attended. The figure eventually arrived at was 837,000 — more than twice what police had said, but less than the number claimed by organizers.

The standoff led to the Park Police

refusing to count crowds again.

Last month, police in Portland, Ore., followed suit, declining to estimate the number of marchers at an anti-war rally, instead leaving the job to the media and rally organizers. While demonstrators said as many as 45,000 people attended the city's fourth large-scale protest since October, newspapers, including The Oregonian, put the figure at closer to 25,000. Aerial shots that use a sequence of gridded high-resolution photographs to count heads — the most commonly used method — put the number even lower, at 14,200.

"Sometimes people have an agenda and are unwilling to believe anyone who doesn't say what they say or believe what they believe," said Sgt. Brian Schmaltz, a police spokesman.

The Police Bureau, he told The Oregonian, was tired of being second-guessed and abused by protesters who felt their undercounting demeaned their cause. It was a no-win situation, said Schmaltz.

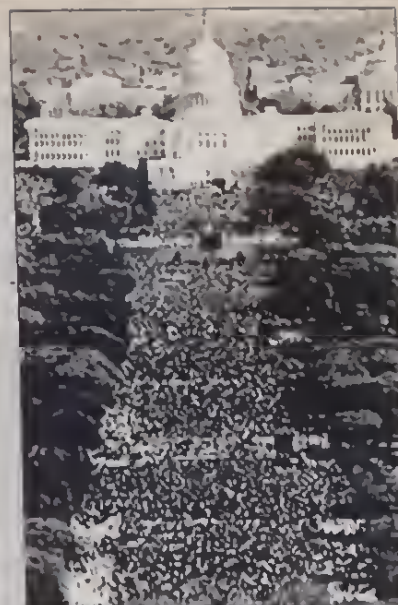
In San Francisco, police said they, too, were no longer counting crowds.

Organizers of an anti-war march on Feb. 16 estimated the crowd at 200,000 to 250,000; police put it at 150,000 to 200,000. Police offered no official count on a march held the following month, but an internal estimate placed the number of protesters at 50,000. In contrast, the organizing group International Answer, estimated the number at 100,000.

"It's a lot of people, and it appears smaller than last time," said Dewayne Tully, a department spokesman. "We're no longer giving out specific numbers."

An officer who asked not to be named by The San Francisco Chronicle said the department was upset when the newspaper contradicted the agency's estimate at the February march. The Chronicle counted 65,000. The officer said the department was reviewing its methods of crowd-counting in light of the article.

And in Washington, D.C., a police estimate of 40,000 at a March rally stood in sharp contrast to the organizers' count, which put the crowd at 100,000.



The 1995 Million Man March in Washington, D.C., led to many police agencies getting out of the head-counting business.

In the eye of the beholder:

Second-guessing surrounds D.C. standoff

Depending on one's definition of success, the 47-hour negotiation that resulted in the peaceful surrender last month of a disgruntled farmer who had driven his tractor into a shallow pond on the National Mall was either a victory for the U.S. Park Police, or a dismal failure.

The incident, which sparked a torrent of criticism of Police Chief Theresa Chambers from the media and the public, began on March 17. As the country awaited the outbreak of war with Iraq, a 50-year-old North Carolina tobacco farmer named Dwight Watson drove his John Deere tractor into the water, claiming that it was rigged with fertilizer that would explode if it got wet. He demanded that Washington be evacuated within 82 hours.

According to authorities, Watson had driven from his failing family farm in Whitakers, N.C., to protest agricultural policies he said left him broke. During the standoff, he also claimed to have left explosives near a hillboard for a tobacco company on Interstate 95 in Richmond, on Columbia Island in Washington, and behind the city's Marine Corps Museum.

The area around the pond in Constitution Gardens, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, was immediately cleared and nearby streets were closed off. After more than two days of patiently waiting Watson out — days marked by daunting traffic jams in the affected area of the city — the police ended the situation without bloodshed.

Watson surrendered at 11:35 a.m. on March 19. Investigators found that he had tied up traffic during four rush hours with nothing more than empty threats. No explosives were found. Watson was arrested and charged with making false threats about an explosive, a federal offense that carries a sentence ranging from probation to 10 years in prison. He could also face fines of up to \$250,000.

While some law enforcement experts in hostage negotiation, federal agents and the Park Police defended the operation, many residents were furious — and frightened — by what a single man with a farm tractor could do, and by the inability of law enforcement to

bring the incident to a far swifter conclusion.

"I'm actually a bit frightened after this," Jonathan Sullivan, a commuter, told The Washington Post. "It made me angry being stuck in traffic because of a guy on a tractor, but it also made me realize if this was something major, how would the city be able to react?"

Another motorist, Uzma Kaleem, said, "It almost makes me feel insecure that one person can cause all this traffic. What if it were 10 people? It's so easy to cause chaos here."

Ron Shaffer, a columnist for The Post, questioned why police did not try to disable Watson using a tranquilizer dart fired from a helicopter. "Police congratulated themselves because no one was hurt," he wrote in a March 30 column.

"Never mind the trapped motorists."

Better to have traffic jams than a questionable shooting, notes Park Police chief.

I am not comfortable with the way this was handled. Particularly considering how extra-vulnerable we are in the nation's capital in wartime," said Shaffer. "We need new police policies — or new leadership — before the next bomb threat."

While some experts on police tactics questioned why police did not take advantage of the situation when Watson fell asleep, others believe that Chambers, her team and the FBI took the right approach.

At a conference held at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in early April to mark the 30th anniversary of the New York City Police Department's

Hostage Negotiation Team, Lt. Hugh McGowan, a former commander of the unit, praised the operation as an example of what can be accomplished through patience.

Dr. Robert J. Louden, another former lieutenant and commander of the hostage team and now a professor at John Jay, echoed McGowan's view, commending Chambers' agency for the wisdom of its strategy.

"The man said he had explosives, you can't see all explosives — even through binoculars," Louden told Law Enforcement News. "You take a calculated risk. I've dealt with people who were holding, or who said they were holding, explosive devices. You're not entitled to mistakes. At any point in time, would it have been possible for them to shoot him? Absolutely. There are good shots in policing, it's still part of the practice. Would it have been legal, justifiable under the law? Absolutely. But was it necessary at the time, and what is the greater good?"

With so much at stake, particularly

in the nation's capital, Louden said it was crucial that the situation be handled with as much patience as possible.

"This was a standard police operation," he said. "It doesn't mean they may not have eventually shot this man, but given the fact that they were following the playbook, so to speak, you don't change the rules without some good reason."

During the incident, Steve Jarvis, a consultant and former SWAT team commander in San Bernardino, Calif., told The Post that Chambers and her commanders were handling the situation "exactly the way they should." If they can wait [Watson] out, he said, "you certainly wait him out. All you've got at this point in time is, in fact, time."

FBI and Park Police officials maintain that they protected the public by dealing patiently with Watson.

"I would rather stand here and answer questions about how we tied up traffic than answer questions about a questionable shooting," Chambers told reporters after Watson had surrendered.



Surrounded by police, Dwight Watson emerges from the cab of his tractor waving an American flag. The tobacco farmer created a 47-hour standoff and miles of traffic jams after he drove the tractor into a pond on the Mall in Washington, D.C., claiming he had explosives on board.

(Reuters)

Tulsa sticks with college for airport cops

The Civil Service Commission in Tulsa, Okla., last month voted 2-to-1 against a request by airport police officials that it waive an associate's degree requirement for applicants.

Said commission member John Fischer. "I honestly believe that this is not the solution. Just lowering the [degree] requirement will just lower the quality of the security force when everybody would like to see the qualities improved. I'm just wondering if we're not looking for trouble."

Officials had hoped to draw more applicants from departments around the state that do not require college degrees. In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, they said, there have been industrywide shortages of qualified law enforcement officers. The airport police

force is currently at about 75 percent of its authorized staffing level of 30, and facing increased overtime costs to make up the difference.

"We have nothing to offer them to pull them to our side of the fence," said Capt. Jerry Hoffman, an airport safety supervisor. Hoffman conceded, however, that lowering the education requirement would only be a quick fix.

Airport officers are enrolled in the city's retirement plan, not the more desirable state pension program as are other sworn personnel, such as those in the Tulsa Police Department. While rookie Tulsa officers, who are required to have bachelor's degrees, earn \$30,000 a year, city payroll records show that airport officers in 2002 earned \$24,944.

Utah court records may find a home on the Web

Public court documents have traditionally existed in a state of "practical obscurity" by virtue of the need to visit the local court house to obtain access to them. But that veil may soon be stripped away in Utah should officials there decide to place all such records on the Internet.

Last month, a 14-member committee on privacy and public court records convened by the Utah Supreme Court launched a year-long project that will explore the issue. The committee, which will solicit testimony from the public, consists of court employees or judges, attorneys and law professors who will hold nine meetings throughout 2003.

At least some documents are already online in Utah. For a fee, users can connect to a program that searches court dockets. The records, however, only describe the type of document filed or hearing held. To read the text of the filings or rulings, a trip to the individual courthouse is still required.

Still, the popularity of accessing records on line is growing. The 3rd District Court began scanning in judgments that are readable over the Net, and the state's federal court scans new civil filings.

"We think it's a great idea," said Kent Morgan, a spokesman for the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. "We have access to all public records

in our Utah court systems, including supreme court decisions, appellate court decisions and any public records. Cases filed, criminal cases filed, all of those things you can reach through a Web site."

What is not yet on line are the state's criminal courts. There are programs going forward right now, he told Law Enforcement News, that would interconnect the database with all of the various courts and counties in Utah.

"In Salt Lake County, I have access to virtually everything, but I couldn't tell you what was happening in Utah County," said Morgan.

Utah is certainly not the first state to contemplate the electronic dissemination of court records — or to weigh the potential risks to privacy.

In January, a nearly decade-old project to computerize all of Massachusetts' court records was finally given the green light. The MassCourts project could be the largest, most complex centralized state court computer database in the country when it electronically links records from all seven court departments in jurisdictions statewide by early 2004.

Users will have access to basic docket and scheduling information through imaging, said court officials. Still under debate, however, is just how much access the public will have to the

records themselves.

Martha Stickette, a research associate with the National Center for State Courts and co-author of a study that developed model guidelines for electronic access of data, said her research shows that privacy advocates are not seeking to close the door on information that has been available in the past. Rather, she said, they simply want the courts and other public agencies consider the ramifications of allowing this data onto the Internet.

"When you merge data in new ways, it's not just a piece of paper," she told LEN. "It's a piece of electronic information that can be merged and becomes a new animal — and it can follow you forever."

The technological landscape was far different when public access laws were established, said Chris Hoofnagle, deputy counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center. While the records may be public documents, having them on line makes all the difference in the world, he told LEN.

Public record principles do not address the problem of aggregation, said Hoofnagle, or the ability of computers to collect limitless amounts of information, to never forget it, and to assign it to individuals.

Of primary concern is the access to records involving stalking and domes-

tic abuse cases. Stickette noted that by using the powerful and popular Google search engine, someone can enter just a phone number and come up with a individual's name, street address, and even a map.

"While that is not information that is necessarily controlled in that context by a court system, it's an example of the way something as simple as a phone number that might be in a court record can lead to some ramifications," she said.

There are also those who argue that going on line with these documents does not serve the purpose of the nation's public records laws.

Dr. Edwin J. DeLattre, an ethicist and scholar in residence at Boston University, contends that with the potential to do more harm than good, it is wiser to err on the side of restraint.

"People could be subjected to severe abuse by e-mail because of what is contained in a public document," he told LEN. "You're not invading their privacy, but it will have an effect on legitimate expectations of privacy and the extent to which it's appropriate to use public records."

Moreover, it is too easy to make documents look official on the Web. There would either have to be shields — which some might find objectionable — or a sophisticated means of

making clear that the records were official, said DeLattre.

"There is a good bit to distrust about Internet-accessible information anyway," he said.

In Utah, however, prosecutors believe that online access will conserve court resources because the courts will not have to provide the public with hard copies, Morgan said. It will also be easier to verify dates, reducing the number of those types of errors. From a law enforcement perspective, he added, police can track a case from the time it is filed so they will not longer have to be dependent on a prosecutor or "that friendly clerk who helped you out in court."

The database will only provide what the U.S. Supreme Court has said should be public information, and that means anything from an arrest on, said Morgan.

"These are not private investigations or determinations of whether someone once belonged to the Communist Party," Morgan said. "We live in a country where we do everything above board — or we're supposed to — and the court system of all places is a public possession of the people. If you're acquitted, you should have that posted. For the rest of us who need to be protected against those who are guilty, we need to know."

Right of first refusal:

R.I. police want more leeway on DUI tests

Rhode Island law enforcement authorities want the same authority to extract blood and urine samples from some drunken-driving suspects as police in 16 other states now have.

Last month, officials from the State Police and several local agencies testified before the House Judiciary Committee in support of legislation that was previously passed by the Senate. The bill would allow the tests of "blood, breath or urine" if officers have probable cause to believe the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol and caused a death.

Sniff test:

Feds roll out anti-bioterror advances

Two new bioterrorism-warning systems, one of which has been quietly in development since Sept. 11, 2001, were unveiled recently by federal officials.

The first will monitor the air for deadly pathogens by upgrading the function of some 3,000 air-quality monitoring stations already set up around the country by the Environmental Protection Agency. The stations will send samples of a tissue-like paper to the closest of 120 laboratories associated with the Centers for Disease Control. Results will be made available within 24 hours, or in some cases, as little as 12 hours.

While the monitoring will not protect Americans from a biological attack, its early-warning capability can give the government more time to mobilize medical resources in the event such an attack does occur, officials said. New York City has seven such stations under the upgraded filtering system, called Bio-Watch. "We will ramp up to other cities and areas of concentrated popu-

The Senate passed the legislation by a vote of 37 to 2 on April 26, 2001. It stemmed from a state supreme court ruling that said people cannot be forced to give up their bodily fluids as the law now stands. The justices wrote that the state lawmakers should rewrite the statute if they wanted to allow those types of tests.

Rhode Island is one of a just a handful of states that have no implied-consent provisions pertaining to accidents. The others include Maryland, Montana, North Carolina and Virginia.

On its annual "rating the states" re-

port card released last November, Mothers Against Drunk Driving gave Rhode Island a D. The only states that got lower grades were Alaska, Montana and Massachusetts.

MADD specifically called attention to the state's "Breathalyzer refusal law," which allows suspects to turn down testing by officers during traffic stops.

Police are often unable to prove a suspect is legally under the influence without a chemical test, said officials. When a suspect refuses, "the case is basically over," said Warwick Police Lt. Thomas Snow, who appeared before the

committee.

Other tests that could show the effects of alcohol, such as observation while the suspect performs tasks requiring coordination, are not possible if injuries have occurred, he told The Associated Press.

A fatal accident last year in which the driver refused a test "left a lot of questions unanswered," said Snow.

Requirements for blood-alcohol content (BAC) testing of some or all fatally injured victims are fairly common, according to MADD. But the testing of surviving drivers and others is

far more piecemeal, and even in those cases where mandatory testing of parties is required, there are a variety of restrictions.

For example, 16 states allow police to test surviving drivers against their will: Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Another four — Iowa, Kentucky, New York and Vermont — allow the practice, but require a court order.

Six states — Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas — require testing of all fatally injured drivers, but only Michigan and Ohio have no exceptions. Mississippi, for example, limits samples for use "exclusively for statistical evaluation of accident causes..."

Another 14 states test fatally injured drivers and pedestrians: Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. In many cases, however, one or both victims had to have died within hours of the accident.

And in another 14 states, the driver, passengers and pedestrians are tested. These states include California, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Those that have no specific mandatory-testing laws, but may have accident-specific provisions in their implied consent statutes include Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Maine and Wyoming.

als but by their symptoms, age, sex and ZIP code.

Germ catalog proposed

In a related development, a recent report by the American Academy of Microbiology has recommended that a national germ repository be established at the Army's Fort Detrick lab in Maryland, and that a database of genetic fingerprints from dangerous microbes be created so that after a biological attack, samples from the crime scene can be checked for matches.

The proposals are part of an effort by microbiologists and federal law enforcement officials to standardize the methods of microbial forensics so that germ evidence gathered at a future biological attack will hold up in court.

"Whatever evidence comes in [to the courtroom] afterward, the defense may — and probably will — challenge it as being unreliable, wrongly interpreted or handled inappropriately," the FBI's Bruce Budowle said at the an-

nual conference of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, held in Denver in February. He added that workers at hospitals, state and local health departments, veterinary offices and universities who may be the first to recognize an attack should be properly trained and certified to collect evidence. Moreover, Budowle said, new standards that will establish the reliability of such tests should be developed if the evidence is to be used in court.

Dr. Paul Keim, a geneticist and evolutionary biologist at Northern Arizona University, who was present at the conference, maintains the largest collection of anthrax strains in the world, including 269 samples from North America. His lab is working in concert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory in Fort Collins, Colo., to develop a similar database, but one that would collect strains of another potential biological weapon — the plague bacterium.

Braiden:

Cliché policing: Putting answers before questions

By Chris Braiden

As Gertrude Stein lay on her deathbed, a friend asked her, "Gertrude, what's the answer?" Gertrude replied, "What's the question?" In our media driven world, politicians and bureaucrats are addicted to the answer-before-question quick fix before taking time to really understand a problem. The result is that often the solution does more harm than the problem itself.

This rush to solution-before-problem is a primary flaw of politics and policing. Examples: In the United States, Prohibition in the 1920s; Rodney King, Waco and Ruby Ridge in the 1990s. In Canada, the Firearms Registry, which was supposed to cost \$2 million but ended up at \$1 billion and growing. In the process, 2 million new criminals are created because many law-abiding gun owners refuse to register. In all cases, the overkill solution caused many times more social and financial harm than the problem ever could have. The first place bureaucrats look for solutions to their problems is the public's pocket. Rarely do they suggest working harder or smarter themselves as the solution.

Confucius said that the beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right name. Talk straight. We don't do that in policing. Instead, we use clichés to describe a multitude of specialized, fragmented functions to convince ourselves and the public that we're doing something new. Each new cliché is presented amid great fanfare and catches the attention of all for a while but soon begins to fade just as a new one is presented to take its place. The fact is that convention today is essentially the same as it was in the 1970's — random patrol, follow-up investigation by detectives and rapid response, all of which have been proven by research to be ineffective. The result? Policing's primary purpose, to prevent crime and disorder, gets buried under an ever-growing pile of clichés. Since the early 1970's we've had Zone, Team, Hard, Soft, Problem-Oriented, Reactive, Proactive and Community Policing. The latest cliché? Intelligence-Led Policing, which in itself says something about the past. The problem with cliché policing is that the attention goes to the latest cliché and the purpose gets pushed further into the background. Over time, the specialized, fragmented functions dominate the purpose. Over time, the servant becomes the served, and the served the servant.

Cliché policing started the growth of specialized, centralized sub-units which turn inward and detach from the others. What motivated the U.S. government to create the Homeland Security Department after 9/11? Because a multitude of 22 specialized federal agencies, all responsible for domestic security in one way or another, did exactly that: over time they turned inward and they ended up guarding their own turf at the expense of the overall purpose.

The result of this growth of specialized units

(Chris Braiden retired in 1993 as a superintendent with the Edmonton Police Service, after a 32-year career as a "copper." A well traveled speaker and widely published author, he now heads his own private firm, Chris Braiden Consulting, and is a member of the faculty of the University of Massachusetts. For more information visit his Web site, www.chrisbraiden.com.)

is that more and more coppers can "dodge the bullet" of fundamental, front-end, day-to-day policing, because in their minds it's not their job. Serving the public is beneath them within the police culture. You want tragic examples of this drift from purpose? At the Montreal and Columbine school massacres, although there were scores of armed officers of many ranks on the scene, none made an effort to enter the buildings while the shooting continued. Why? Because policy stated that those ordinary coppers' job was to seal the



perimeter and wait for the specialized coppers to arrive. The core duty of any police officer, specialized or not, is that one may have to risk one's life in order to save another. Sad to say in today's recruit-training subculture, officer safety dominates everyone else's safety, which feeds the bunker mentality even more.

Since the early 1970's, the cure-all for everything has been to create another box on the edge of the organization chart, give it a name and announce the birth of whatever. But if specialization were the right answer, we wouldn't have had the Unabomber at large for 18 years, or Waco, or Ruby Ridge, or the drug war fiasco, or the Diallo shooting in New York, or the other guy in New York who was shot and killed because he wouldn't buy marijuana from an undercover copper, or the Rampart Division scandal which was the worst in the history of the LAPD — because all of these disasters were handled by specialized coppers. Who was it caught Timothy McVeigh as he fled Oklahoma City? An unspecialized copper!

Organization Garage Sale

Logic is a universal language that can be moved from one context to another. Garage sales are logical. They force us to get off our fanny and make decisions. They force us to revisit everything in the context of the present. They force us to make decisions on what to keep and what to get rid of. But most important, garage sales systematize what's left and free up space for new things. Here's an example of an organization garage sale of a major police service in Canada — a reality check on who does the work in policing. In 1974, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) had 40 boxes on its organization chart. In 1990, it had 121. We did a thorough workload analysis of 204,000 calls-for-service to determine where the work was coming from and who was doing it. I got the idea from the work Larry Sherman did in Minneapolis in 1986 on crime hot-spots. One of the most revealing findings was that 36 percent of all sworn officers handled all of the 171,880 dispatched calls for service that year — but these ordinary patrol coppers also made 85 percent of all arrests for that year! What was the other 64 percent, the specialized coppers, doing? Not a hell of a lot, as it turned out.

Knowing these figures, how could we, the management team, ethically leave the organizational structure in that shape? We didn't. We did an organization 'garage sale' that was driven by two core targets: Generalize where possible; specialize where necessary. Decentralize where possible; centralize where necessary. We agreed on a core value for everything we did: "Committed to Community Need." We then walked through every one of those 121 units on the organization chart

and stacked each one up against our core value. When we were finished, 65 boxes were eliminated — and 92 ex-specialized coppers ended up doing front-end street work. No one lost a cent or a rank, but a lot of fiefdoms disappeared. That's what I call community policing — restructuring the entire organization around policing's purpose. Our experience was that most specialized units don't do very much work and in fact some had changed from what they were created to do to doing what they wanted to do.

Monopoly: The Congenital Disease of Policing

In 1948, Albert Einstein warned of the military/industrial complex he could see on the horizon when he said, "The problem with our society is that we have become so fixated on means, we have forgotten our purpose." Policing, like the military, has monopoly over its product. It is the only ticket in town. Monopolies remake themselves in their own image. Over time, means dic-

Policing was created to make peace [but a] culture of militarism promotes a warlike mentality toward everything: the war on drugs, gangs, graffiti and squeegee guys.

tate purpose and inner wants dominate external needs. Rarely will you hear police chiefs or unions talk about the very significant drop in violent crime over the past decade. Why? Because fear of crime, like fear of death, is a growth industry within the criminal justice system. Jean Jacques Rousseau said in 1770: "The greatest harm is done when private interests influence matters." Scare the hell out of people to get more tax money to put more coppers on the street and more people in jail. You want examples of drift from cause? Consider the Church of Rome in the Middle Ages. Consider the FBI under Hoover. Consider the Prime Minister's Office here in Canada with its 'hired hand' bureaucrats who *de facto* run our country.

Beware of the prophet whose dogma generates his paycheck. The war on drugs of the past 30 years is a classic example of that truism. Policing's solution-before-problem, the prison/industrial complex in the U.S., and the financial cost of an artificial, media-hyped fear of crime, have all been driven by money and power by public bureaucrats and private interests. In 1973, there were 300,000 prison inmates in the U.S., in 2000, the number was 2.1 million and growing. In California in 1983, there were 1,600 correction officers. In 1999 there were 28,000. In 1998, 2 percent of California's budget went to higher education; 17 percent went to prisons. The motto of the private prison industry? Build them and they will come! Today, more and more states are scrambling to get people out of prison, because the solution is bankrupting them. Today, drugs are cheaper, more plentiful, more potent and easier to get than ever before. Think of the amount of police corruption and excessive force spawned by that war. Prohibition repeated 80 years later. Nothing learned.

Community Policing: Question-Driven

How do we know we've arrived if we don't know where we're coming from? Why was policing created? What's its purpose? These questions have definitive answers that go back to the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829 in Britain. That act, which still governs the London Metropolitan Police, was constructed on the back of the Nine Policing Principles of the Metropolis, commonly referred to as Peel's Principles, in reference to Sir Robert Peel, who introduced the legislation into parliament. Remember that London at the time had a population of 1.5 million but no full-time coppers. Here's that first principle: "The object of the

new police is to prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force or severity of legal punishment." Section Two of the Criminal Code of Canada defines a peace officer as "a person employed for the preservation and maintenance of the Public Peace." Notice that the three key words of those two statements, prevent, preserve, maintain. All emphasize proactive policing driven by its purpose. Conventional policing is mainly driven by its reactive specialized functions.

Policing in a common-law democracy was created to replace the military in preventing crime and disorder. Today it emulates it. This hasty-ization of purpose goes to the core of what's wrong with policing. The military was created to make war, policing was created to make peace. This culture of militarism promotes a warlike mentality toward everything: the war on drugs, gangs, graffiti and squeegee guys. If I'm thinking war, I look for enemies; if I'm thinking peace, I look for allies, and the places I need the most allies are in

the neighborhoods most beset by crime and disorder. Unfortunately that's where we left most of our enemies in the past. Remember how the FBI was stuck at the junction on the Unabomber case for 18 years — until it got a tip from the 'hood. We'll never eliminate drugs so long as we wage war on them. In fact, all it has achieved is that the war on drugs dominates everything else within the police culture.

The most compelling evidence that this fragmentation of purpose and culture-of-militarism mentality is wrong for policing is found in Peel's fifth policing principle: "To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police. The police are only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties that are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."

So there we have it, Community Policing, exactly what policing was created to do in the first place. No need for a cliché. For me, community policing has always meant "Peace in the 'hood." Peace is the destination, all else the means to get there. There will be peace in the 'hood, the home, the school, the mall and everywhere else. Peace is not negotiable. The only questions left to be answered are who, coppers/citizens, does what, how, where and when. When the law-abiding, decent citizens of the 'hood and their police are allied, great things can happen.

The Boston Gun Project is a great example of police having allies in the 'hood. In 1998, the Boston PD won a prestigious award when that city went 28 months without a single juvenile homicide. Although there were several components to the project, one stands out in my view as a great example of smart policing. Several officers were assigned full-time to HUD housing

Continued on Page 11

Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Budget gaps lead to early prison releases

It won't be popular, Washington state lawmakers concede, but legislation that would save at least \$40 million by letting thousands of inmates out of prison early, and cutting back on supervision for nonviolent offenders and those convicted of property crimes, stands a good chance of passing given present financial circumstances.

Gov. Gary Locke came under fire last month when he issued a proposal calling for the release of 1,200 inmates and the elimination of supervision for 2,900 low-risk offenders who have completed prison time, and for 22,000 others who have finished jail time, for a total projected savings of \$90 million.

Lawmakers say the prospects are better for a scaled-back Senate version that would grant early release to 600 to 900 inmates, and eliminate supervision for more than 15,000 inmates who have finished prison or jail sentences.

"It's really going to be an ugly scene, but we have to go there," said Representative Al O'Brien, a Mountlake Terrace Democrat. "We're trying to strike a balance of public safety and filling the budget hole."

While proposing perhaps the nation's most sweeping reform measure, Washington officials are by no

means alone in advocating the early release of prisoners to save money. Around the country, legislatures have been letting inmates out since last year.

"We created a monster, thinking we could lock up all of those people for long periods of time," Reginald Wilkinson, director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, told The Christian Science Monitor. "We've gotten a wake-up call for us to look at how to better manage the billions of dollars that are being dispersed to prison agencies."

Apparently, what advocates for the elimination of mandatory sentencing and treatment alternatives for drug offenders could not accomplish, tighter budgets have.

Said Joan Petersilia, a criminologist at the University of California, Irvine: "The declining U.S. economy appears to have done what criminologists were unable to do: secure political support for alternative sanctions for some offenders."

In addition to early release, states have been more open to a variety of alternative approaches. Under Locke's plan, for instance, certain nonviolent inmates would earn more credit for good behavior, cutting their time by

half. State law now allows prisoners to reduce their time by about a third.

A law passed last year that reduces sentences for certain minor drug offenses, which is scheduled to go into effect in 2004, would be pushed up to this year. It would be retroactive to inmates currently serving time.

Washington's prison population of 17,000 could be trimmed by as much as 7 percent over the next two years.

Even South Carolina and Oklahoma, two states that are well known for get-tough correctional policies, have acknowledged the need to come up with better strategies for cutting prison costs.

The South Carolina Corrections Department has suggested restarting a furlough program and the emergency release of non-violent prisoners, options that could free as many as 4,000 inmates. A state commission in Oklahoma has proposed reducing sentences for drug possession and strengthening community-based treatment programs.

Arkansas also wants to put more drug offenders into treatment programs and find ways to handle probation violators without necessarily putting them back in prison.

"Our efforts to provide for the public safety must encompass more than

simply locking more people up for longer periods," Gov. Mike Huckabee told The Associated Press. "If that's the extent of our strategy, we'll go broke."

Still, there are concerns about what impact releasing inmates will have on community safety.

"You can't lock everybody up," agreed Chuck Lange, director of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association. "But there are a group of people, they just have to be incarcerated. Our trick in law enforcement is to decide which group you fall into."

"When you think about what jail sentences are used for, they're for misdemeanors of under a year," said Peter Greenwood, a criminal justice researcher who now heads Greenwood & Associates, a private security firm. "But that includes a lot of stuff like wife batterers, people who carry guns, and all that kind of stuff. The fact that they're letting them out of jail probably means they've already cut down on a lot of their alternative sentencing already — their electronic bracelets, house arrests, work camps. You end up not having much sanction for these people, who are nuisance criminals getting kind of a free ride."

In April, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca began relocating 30 to 40 low-level inmates from county jails to sheriff's substations to work as trustees. Some 2,600 inmates will eventually be moved out, at a savings of \$17 million in meals, security and housing.

The action was opposed by Los

Angeles Police Chief William Bratton and Mayor James Hahn, who wrote to Baca, urging him to reconsider.

"Allowing these criminals to be placed on house arrest and in work-release programs before they legally qualify sends a dangerous message that the criminal justice system can be lenient," their letter said. "In addition, the lack of full accountability increases the chances of recidivism for these misdemeanants."

But Baca said he had few alternatives. The sheriff's department has already cut \$84 million from its \$1.6-billion annual budget, and is facing an additional \$143 million in cuts this year.

Currently, inmates facing less than a year are being released after fulfilling half their sentences. Most are released on the condition that they have a home and job to return to. The mentally ill or homeless are sent to residential facilities, provided there is space.

A similar situation developed in California, Greenwood told Law Enforcement News, when jails were filled with inmates waiting to begin serving potential life sentences under the state's three-strikes law. Those serving 90-day sentences for domestic abuse, for example, were let out after just a week.

"There were a number of incidents where it was not a long enough cooling-off period," said Greenwood. "In a week they're home and they do something terrible. You're giving up a lot of your immediate community control with these characters."

Headlines are not enough



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Law Enforcement News

(41503)

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

Lie detectors await some Ohio rape victims

Continued from Page 1

routine in sexual assault investigations.

When a case involved a forcible rape where there was perhaps a break-in, a test was given if the information provided by the victim did not match the physical evidence found at the scene. More often, however, the tests were administered when the victim and the offender knew each other.

"Let's just say it was a forcible rape and your victim didn't know the person, broke into the house, maybe caught them outside — that would be probably be the last person you would give a truth-verification test to," he told LEN.

Investigators would be more apt to use a CVSA when the victim's version of the situation is completely different from the story police are getting from the alleged offender, said Roberts.

In those cases — although the CVSA tests are not admissible in court — having the victim pass a polygraph gives police leverage against the accused, said Detective Sgt. Steven Truitt of the Miami University of Ohio Police Department.

"We talk to him and say, 'Hey, it's your word against the young lady's. She has come in and shown us she believes what she's saying by taking a truth-verification test, you up for the task?' It encourages him, so we get a nice one-on-one, prolonged conversation with the individual," he told LEN.

The point of the tests is not to embarrass a victim, or question anyone's integrity, said Ugrinic. "We don't put them on the polygraph to find out if it's true," he said, adding that if a victim does not want to take the test, police will still pursue the investigation.

But victims' advocates contend that since the tests cannot be used in court, using them only serves to inflict further trauma.

Stacy Kitchen, executive director of the Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault, contends that the stress victims are under could appear on a polygraph or CVSA as lying. Moreover, she told LEN, just because a victim might not be forthcoming with police, or her story does not add up to investigators, does not mean she is not telling the truth.

Yet unless legislation prohibits police from using truth-verification tests, it is unlikely that the practice would stop, Kitchen said, given that agencies find the tests very effective.

"What we would like to see is some very strict guidelines in place, and if we could work together with law enforcement on that, we would be happy to do that," she said. "But we do not support the use of these devices at all."

While it is natural that victims' advocates would oppose what appears to be an unsupportive stance by police, Truitt noted that it is law enforcement's job to remain open-minded.

"Anything you say to the victim that makes it seem you may have doubts about what she's told you is naturally going to be met with a certain amount of resentment because that's not seen as the proper thing to do," he said. "Unfortunately, in our line of work, we've got to maintain a certain open-minded approach to the thing, and we can't go into it with a preset attitude of this guy is guilty, we're just going to hang him out to dry. We have to look at it from a practical standpoint, provide as much support for the case as we can."

Upcoming Events

MAY

19-20. **Criminal Investigative Techniques II.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

19-21. **Assessment Center Preparation.** Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$425

19-21. **Statement Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Jacksonville, Fla. \$349

19-22. **Planning, Designing & Constructing Police Facilities.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Keene, N.H.

19-23. **Basic Investigators School.** Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Brockton, Mass. \$495

19-23. **Crime Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Ocala, Fla. \$525.

19-23. **Teaching Diversity: Train-the-Trainer for Law Enforcement Professionals.** Presented by the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration. Toronto. \$545.

19-23. **Crime Scene Technology Workshop 2.** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$900.

20-22. **Crime Scene Response for New Detectives.** Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$425

21-22. **Protective Investigations: Threat Assessment & Threat Management Techniques.** Presented by the Douglas County Sheriff Reserve Deputies Unit. Omaha. \$210-\$250

21-23. **High Impact Supervision.** Presented by Pennsylvania State University. East Brunswick, N.J. \$330.

21-23. **Low Light Survival Shooting Instructor Course.** Presented by Streamlight Academy. Salt Lake City. \$350.

24. **Tactical Folding Knife Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Simsbury, Conn.

24. **Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Northboro, Mass.

25. **Firearms Disarming, Retention & Recovery Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Simsbury, Conn.

25-28. **The Protected Pistol Defense Program.** Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. \$990

29-30. **Managing Police Technology.** Presented by the International Association of

Chiefs of Police. Germantown, Tenn.

JUNE

2-3. **Reducing School Violence.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Charles, Mo.

2-4. **Civil Disorder Resolution I: Command Strategies.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Oswego, N.Y.

2-6. **Criminal Investigative Analysis (Criminal Profiling).** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Miami, Fla. \$525

5-6. **Cultural Awareness: Train the Trainer.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Westmont, Ill.

5-6. **Value-Centered Leadership: A Workshop on Ethics, Values & Integrity.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Colorado Springs, Colo.

9-10. **Urban Terrorism.** Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Chicago. \$390.

9-10. **Documenting the Use of Force.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Meriden, Conn.

9-11. **Investigation of Computer Crime.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Lake Zurich, Ill.

9-11. **Interview & Interrogation Techniques.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Charles, Minn.

9-13. **COMSTAT (Command & Accountability Policing).** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$675.

9-13. **Investigative Photography Workshop I.** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$850

9-13. **Bloodstain Evidence Workshop I.** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$850

9-13. **SWAT II: Advanced Tactical & Hostage Rescue Operations.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Ithaca, N.Y.

9-13. **Crime Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Boardman, Ohio. \$525.

9-13. **Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525

11-12. **Corporate Aircraft Security.** Presented by the Executive Protection Institute.

Chicago. \$390.

11-13. **Tactical Science & the Decision-Making Process.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Buffalo Grove, Ill.

12-13. **Achieving Organizational Excellence.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Centerville, Ohio.

13. **So You Want to Be a Personal Protection Specialist.** Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Chicago. \$190

16-17. **Combating Underage Drinking.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Minneapolis.

16-18. **Advanced Supervision Skills.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Lake Zurich, Ill.

16-20. **Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor Course.** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$675

16-20. **Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Boardman, Ohio. \$525.

16-20. **Crime Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. St. Paul, Minn. \$525

16-27. **Supervision of Police Personnel.** Presented by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Evanston, Ill. \$1,000.

18-19. **Background Investigation.** Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$300

19-20. **Managing Criminal Investigations.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Agnes, Mo.

19-20. **Performance Appraisal.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Lake Zurich, Ill.

21. **Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Simsbury, Conn.

23-24. **Determining Patrol Staffing, Deployment & Scheduling.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Concord, Mass.

23-24. **Advanced Crisis Negotiations.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Edgewater, Colo.

23-25. **Forensic Investigations for First Responders.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Oswego, N.Y.

23-27. **Crime Analysis Training.** Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Fort Collins, Colo. \$525

23-27. **Sex Crimes Investigation.** Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$575

24-26. **Low Light Survival Shooting Instructor Course.** Presented by Streamlight Academy. Haverstraw, N.Y. \$350

26-27. **Risk Management for Law Enforcement Agencies.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Sandy, Utah

28. **Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Simsbury, Conn.

29. **Firearms Disarming, Retention & Recovery Course.** Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Northboro, Mass.

30-July 1. **Managing Police Technology.** Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Centerville, Ohio

How about a date?

The Upcoming Events section of LEN has dozens, featuring opportunities nationwide for professional development. Listings are free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Police chemist admits she's no rocket scientist

A Baltimore County police chemist admitted on the record that she did not understand the science behind blood tests she performed in a murder case, according to a court transcript from a pretrial hearing four months before the chemist left the agency in 1987.

Concepcion Bacasnot's competence was called into question last year when the Maryland Public Defender's new Innocence Project was successful in its efforts to exonerate Bernard Webster, an inmate who had served 20 years in prison for rape. DNA evidence preserved for decades at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center showed that Webster, now 40, had not raped a 47-year-old woman in her Towson apartment.

The damning transcript, however, comes from another case involving Robert Bedford, who was accused of raping and fatally bludgeoning a Calonsville woman.

In that case, Bacasnot told public defender Nancy Colten, now a Baltimore County district judge, that she did not understand the science behind many of the tests she performed, and that she did not perform a number of the standard tests on the blood samples in the case. Other tests that she had completed, she admitted, were completely useless.

Bacasnot also said she had failed to record the results of some testing steps that were needed to ensure the accuracy of the blood typing.

"Now as a result of all this, isn't it a fact that there is not one finding, one result in this report that is usable, isn't that true?" asked Cohen. "You're entire report in this case, your entire analysis is absolutely worthless, isn't that right?"

Bacasnot replied "It is what you said, yes."

The prosecutor in the Bedford case, Frank Meyer, who is still an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore County, did not call Bacasnot as a witness in the case.

"Have you read the transcript?" he said when asked why. "Well, there you go."

Bedford was convicted and sentenced to death. He was later retried and given life in prison.

Police are now in the process of reviewing 480 cases that Bacasnot worked on during the 1980s. None of the defendants involved in those cases are on death row.

Edward T. Blake, who reviewed

Prosecutors to get flawed FBI cases

After having identified some 3,000 cases that may have been affected by flawed lab work and skewed testimony by FBI technicians, the Justice Department has decided to allow the prosecutors who originally handled those cases to determine whether the defendants need to be notified.

"That's like asking the fox to guard the henhouse," Neal Sonnett, a former federal prosecutor, told *The New York Times*. "If there is a possibility that evidence has been tainted, then the Department of Justice or prosecutors should not be the arbiter of whether it's material."

So far, the government has found 100 to 150 cases in which defendants have been told that problems stemming from problems with the FBI laboratory during the 1990s might have affected their verdict, said officials.

The inquiry is part of the continuing fallout from a scandal in the mid-1990s, when a senior chemist, Frederick Whitehurst, blew the whistle on practices at the lab. A Justice Department investigation concluded in 1997 that 13 technicians skewed testimony or made errors that helped prosecutors. None of the scientists were ever fired or prosecuted, however.

Since then, all work must be reviewed by another technician with the same expertise, as well as by a supervisor.

Bacasnot's testimony in the Webster case, said she had falsely testified that the rapist's blood was type A, like the defendant's. Her scientific explanations about blood typing in the 1983 case were "within the definition of material perjury," he said.

Webster was freed on Nov. 7 and pardoned in January by former Gov. Parris N. Glendon. Two weeks after his release, police arrested 36-year-old Darren Lyndell Powell, a convicted rapist whose DNA matched the sample.

Cliché policing: Putting answers before questions

Continued from Page 9

projects. They suspected there were illegal firearms in the possession of young males in their hood, but they didn't know where they were. They knocked on doors and hand-delivered letters asking for permission to enter the homes to search for illegal firearms. They made it clear to the residents that they could not force them to comply and that if they refused there would be no negative reaction by the coppers. They also gave a written, signed guarantee that if they found illegal guns, no one would be charged. These coppers were trying to get the guns before they showed up in a crime or in a copper's face. In one year they seized 422 ille-

gal guns. (And by the way, they were just ordinary coppers, too.)

Thomas Jefferson said that no country can write a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law. The U.S. Constitution has moved 27 times, and will probably have to move again because of 911, but its purpose "Of the People, By the People, For the People" has remained constant down through the centuries. So, too, is policing's purpose constant, but how it is achieved must remain flexible because of changing times and problems. Until we reverse policing's over-specialized solution to everything and its culture of militarism, no community will have true community policing.

For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training, P.O. Box 8, Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 989-4366 Fax: (909) 476-8271 Web: <www.alphagroupcenter.com>

Douglas County Sheriff Reserve Deputies Unit, 3601 N. 156th St., Omaha, NE 68116 (402) 444-6683 Email: <ajohnson@co.douglas.ne.us>

Executive Protection Institute, Highlander Lodge, P.O. Box 802, Berryville, VA 22611 (540) 554-2540

Institute for Law Enforcement Administration, 5201 Democracy Dr., Plano, TX 75024 Web: <222.theica.org>

International Association of Chiefs of Police, 1-800-THE-IACP Fax: (703) 836-4543

National Criminal Justice Training Council, P.O. Box 1003, Twin Lakes, WI 53181-1003 (262) 279-5735 Fax: (262) 279-5758 Web: <www.ncjtc.org>

New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, 34 School St., Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 427-9340 Fax: (508) 427-9356 Web: <www.neilem.com>

Northeastern Tactical Schools, P.O. Box 591, Nutting Lake, MA 01865 (978) 667-5591

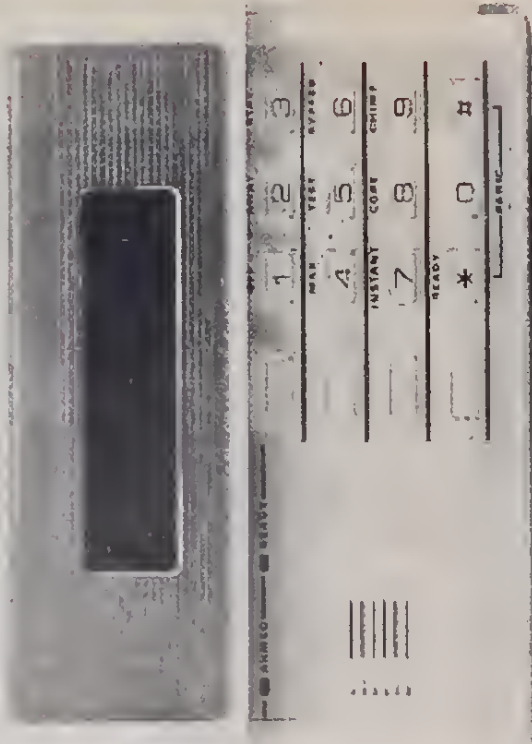
Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, Attn: Mary Mrugalski, Senior Editor, 405 Church St., Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 491-4140 Email: <m-mrugalski@northwestern.edu>

Pennsylvania State University, Penn State Justice & Safety Institute, (814) 863-0079

Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, (502) 852-6561 Fax: (502) 852-0335 Web: <www.louisville.edu/a-si/ja/spi>

Streamlight Academy, 1-800-393-0705 Email: <info@shirazmarketing.com> Web: <www.streamlight.com>

Pushing the panic button



A promising strategy to reduce false alarms meets resistance from the alarm industry and alarm-system owners. **See Page 1.**

On the hot seat:

Report shines an unflattering light on practice of giving lie-detector tests to some Ohio sex-assault victims.



Page 1.

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What They Are Saying:

"We created a monster, thinking we could lock up all of those people for long periods of time. We've gotten a wake-up call."

— Reginald Wilkinson, director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, on the latest growing trend in prisons — early release of prisoners due to gaping budget shortfalls. (Story, Page 10.)